



THE DIARY OF JOHN NEWELL EVANS,  
Cowichan Pioneer.

Being a record of his voyage  
from Southampton, England,  
April 2nd, 1864 and his sub-  
sequent pioneer life in the  
Cowichan Valley.

John Newell Evans.  
Peterson  
Vancouver Island  
British North America

Copy by kind permission of his  
daughter, Mrs. Lilian Savage,  
Duncan, B.C.

October, 1965

John Hewell Evans.

Victoria

Vancouver's Island

British North America

Things that we want to know about in England  
A short sketch of your outward voyage giving  
an idea of the accommodation & food on board  
the steamers &c & what you saw on the mainland &c

A graphic description of Victoria and  
all other places that you may visit giving  
always the date of the visit described - -

I want to know the religious state of the towns  
all about the churches schools &c - - about the  
religious periodicals or others sold &c &c - -

Your adventures in the country: how much  
you get a week &c &c together with how  
much it costs you police &c - -

And so generally (always giving the exact  
date of the facts) the general sum of wages  
together the prices of tea sugar flour  
mutton beef veal ham bacon p t.  
and milk p quart &c &c &c

Try and give this as if you were writing  
an article to the newspapers.

Reliable information about the goldmines  
if possible from your brothers or the best  
sources available -

Write regularly one of the three, once a month  
to some one in England via W. D. Packard.

W. W. Wright  
Post Office. Virginia City  
Carson County. Nevada Territory  
United States.

Sergeant J Simpson  
Master Taylor  
5<sup>th</sup> West Virginian Regiment  
Xanadu

Diary of Passage  
Diary out to British Columbia in the  
La Plata from Southampton  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> A.D. 1864 Left London at 8 o'clock  
A.M. by South Western Railway from  
Waterloo Station for the Southampton Dock  
Station where I arrived at 10.20 A.M.  
Left the Docks in the tug Boat for the  
ship at 11.40 A.M. We set sail from  
Southampton waters 3.20 P.M. we started with  
a head breeze and beautiful sea, we went  
on very easily until we went to bed,  
Sunday April 3<sup>d</sup> The sea was very rough  
with a head wind most of us were sea sick

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on very nicely until we went to bed.  
Sunday April 3<sup>d</sup>. The sea was very rough  
with a head wind most of us were sea sick  
and lost all sight of land during the  
night - we had no service today as most of  
the Passengers was in their Berths sea sick

Monday, A fine morning with strong  
head wind, our boat is leaking a good  
deal and the passengers more, all sick  
except one or two, other mens room is in the  
fore peak so we feel the heaving of the ship  
very much there is not many of us that  
can sit down to a meal without being  
made to run away from the table with  
sea sickness we live but very middling as  
yet, our daily diet is for Breakfast coffee  
bread on the French fashion by the yard  
Butter, & cheese, meat very tough  
and flavoring very salt, above ~~day~~  
good Bacon, that is for Breakfast

which take place, at 8 o'clock  
Dinner at one is Salt-Beef, Salt-  
Pork and Baked Meat; sometimes  
there is a sprinkling of fresh, with  
Potatoes, and Bread; Tea at five  
with Bread and Butter, that  
is our last meal for the day  
the lights is put out in the fore-  
peak at nine o'clock.

My Cabin is shared by three Cornish  
men one is going to the silver mines  
of Mexico with some companion on  
board the others are going to California  
with some more Cornish compa-  
so most of our English Third class  
passengers are from Cornwall there  
is two more Irish men for California  
one Englishman for Victoria with  
one. There is three, Sargent, for the 5<sup>th</sup>  
West Indian native regiment  
now forming as passengers on  
board, that is I think all the  
different parties in the steage, except  
a lot of fresh men.

Tuesday, The weather much clear  
with a fresh South West wind, we  
sighted a ship, 10. or 12. miles off at 9.30  
A.M. homeward bound, 10.30. heavy  
swell, on sea with fog, cleared of at 1.15  
2.30 P.M. a help ful sail about

a mile on our right; with another  
at a great distance.  
Wednesday A beautiful morning  
with a nice cool Breeze, we spoke to  
a schooner home ward bound from  
the Western Isles laded with fruit  
we had the company of a swallow  
for several hours, ~~then~~ them he took  
his flight, we was then join'd by  
a booby a beautiful Bird,  
which also took its flight after remain-  
ing with us a short time, We had some  
good sport of the sailors on board after  
Sea untill dark.

Thursday Strong head winds  
with heavy sea clashing against  
our good ship, the spray clashing  
all over the fore decks

Friday One of the passengers came  
to call us about six to say the West  
ern Islands where in sight when  
I got on deck I could see them at a  
great distance on the right, they  
look very like the Monymorey line  
Hills, the highest is call the Peak of the  
Picha is very like the Beidin Hill  
the top of which is generally cover  
with snow, We saw a ship at a  
great distance One of the firemen  
met with an accident a bump of

RECORDED

coal fell on his head which fracture  
his skull, the doctor gave very little  
hope of his recovery.

Saturday. We have now been on  
the middle deep a week today  
and another week we hope to run in  
to St. Thomas. the stoker is a little  
better.

Sunday. A beautiful morning  
saw a sail at 9.30 A.M. went  
to church at 10.05 saw three more  
sails in the afternoon, we had  
preaching in the evening at 7.0  
by a minister on board the last  
was in the 5 chapter & 16 verse of  
the Ephesians.

Monday. We have had a beautiful  
day we are 1018 miles for St. Thomas.  
we have run 286 miles during  
the last 24 hours.

Tuesday. We have seen two sails  
today, and twelve porpoises and  
lots of flying fish, we have had  
an tremor over us this last three  
days and the sea has been as smooth as  
glass.

Friday every thing as passed on  
much the same as usual the last  
two days but we hope to see land  
tomorrow morning when we get up

Saturday I turn'd out of my  
bunk to see at 3 o'clock to look out  
for the America Island, I forgot the  
name of it; we saw it about 8 o'clock  
it is very small a little schooner  
run out of the Harbour as we was  
passing and continued its course  
before us for sometime the wind took  
it along beautiful we pass'd it  
at last we have ninety miles to go  
to St. Thomas; we expect to run in  
in the afternoon, 6 o'clock P.M. we  
arrive here at St. Thomas at three  
o'clock I have been ashore and over the  
Danish fort and Barracks there is not  
many soldiers there their guns are  
very bad they have smooth bore  
muskets and very short Bayonets  
the large guns are very old, they have  
a monkey and Jack Hall in the  
Barracks square, the Barracks are very  
cool, with good bed, most of the soldiers  
can speak English they where asking  
us a great many questions about the  
Danish war, the town is a good size with  
some good large stores, most of the inhabitants  
are Blk. Here is a good deal of shipping in  
the Harbour there is two Yankee blockade  
ships a fead to go out because there  
had been an confederate run in the

Harbour in the morning it left before  
we got in, I cant find out the name  
of it, there is three ships loading out  
of the La Plata, One is the Biggest  
The Tyee is the name of it, The Conway  
is the one for the Gulf of Mexico and a  
small screw steamer for Barbadoes  
we expect to start to night.

Monday They had a great deal  
of cargo to get into this ship it was  
11 o'clock Sunday morning by the  
time we started, I like this ship better  
than the La Plata we have two separate  
rooms with bunks in there is about  
twelve in each room the mess is in  
the same room we live a great  
deal Better in this ship than the  
other, the man that waits on us is  
a darky, and all the crew are black  
the few men are white men

Tuesday we are in sight of land again  
we shall run into the Port of Dak  
Mal to land the mails, We got in  
Jack Mal about ten o'clock we stayed  
about an hour, we are running under  
the side of land all the time it looks  
a very hilly country it is worse than  
Wales from what I can tell of it  
we shall run up to King town Jamaica  
to morrow morning,

Wednesday We run into Flings town Harbor  
about half past ten o'clock, the Harbor is a  
very fine one but very dangerous to enter as  
there is a great many holes in side, we shall  
stay here twenty four hours to take in four  
hundred tons of coal; there is about fifty Blk.  
women at work carrying it in on their heads  
in Wicker baskets such as you see apples  
in Covent-Garden Market, I have been up  
in the town the streets is all sand, and in  
very bad repair and the houses are very large  
and they too have seen better days the builder  
and Painter seem to have been strangers to  
them for some years, the inhabitants are chiefly  
black and creole, and a few Whites carrying on  
business, there is some good large ships here  
and they appear to be doing a good trade  
I went up with Sergeant T. Simpson to  
his Quarter at the camp Barracks which is  
about a mile and three quarters from the  
redoubt, They have very nice cool Barracks  
and the Blk. look very good soldiers, Simpson  
walk with me back to the town, I had some  
lemonade which they have on shore and  
which they charge six pence, the Porter on  
dray is six pence a quart: and 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> for  
a small bottle of ale and half a pint of rum  
for a shilling, I bought a penny worth  
oranges 1/- 16 of turn and 2 pineapples  
for six pence,

Thursday. The black women where carrying  
coal all night last night and sing they make  
a woe full noise, I don't know which their faces  
or their clothes are the Blackest; I went to a  
west Indian dignity ball last night there was  
a lot of sailors from the ~~men of~~ Royal men  
of War the sailors had stakes some were what  
longer than an Irish man's shakly and the  
darkey and them where dancing we left  
the wharf at eleven o'clock A.M. we are now  
out of sight of land again ploughing  
the mighty deep we are due at Colon at  
7 P.M. on saturday some think we shall  
be too late for the other boat.

Friday Some say one thing and others another  
about the California boat, I expect we shall  
be in time if we are not we must do the best  
that we can,

Saturday we expect to make land this after  
noon about four o'clock, We saw land  
about five o'clock and anchored at the  
wharf about five minutes to 7 o'clock  
I saw the poor old Avon, of London ashore  
as coming in she was driven there one night  
about twelve months ago in a storm they  
cannot get her off. The New York flat  
arrived here this morning with 1300 persons  
they crossed to day about two o'clock  
Sunday, We came ashore at Colon about  
eight o'clock we where told that we should stay

At ten o'clock for the other side when ten  
came there was a notice put up that we should  
not start before two, After that one of our  
passengers had to go to the Agent and Agent  
told him that the boat had started at  
four o'clock this morning then one of the  
men in charge of the trail said she was there  
when he left - so when we got here to Panama  
we found the Agent - was correct so we then  
have to stay <sup>until</sup> the 3d of May All of us  
third class passengers have come to the Europa  
Hotel at a dollar and a quarter per day board  
and lodging, Colon is a very shabby town  
it looks better at a distance than in it all the  
shops where open'd and Tailors and Shoemakers  
at work there is no place of worship open there  
is a church in the building (Roman Catholic)  
the country we pass through was chiefly all  
swamps and small hills there is a great  
deal of underbrush growing every where  
we came along the side of a good large  
River, I saw an alligator just on the edge  
of the Water we saw some good cattle as  
coming along and in good condition but  
the Horses pigs and dogs look miserable there  
are nearly through their skin the pigs and dogs  
are every where there is also a great many  
monkeys

Monday Some of our fellow passengers  
are disappointed ~~with~~ with the accommodations

so eight of them have left and gone to  
the American ~~and~~. The other four went to  
see their accommodations but I don't like  
them as well as our own. We have a great  
deal better room since they have gone.

I must say we live very well. The first  
thing we have in the morning is a cup of  
good coffee and a fresh roll we can have it  
any time between 6 A.M. & 10 A.M. we have  
what they call Breakfast at 10. A.M. we have two  
courses of fresh meat, ham, potatoes bread and  
a cup of tea. we dine at 4.30 P.M. we have  
two courses again and sweets, and a cup of tea.  
we have tea again before 8. P.M. so I think  
the fare is pretty good for a dollar and a quart.  
they have to buy the water here when go about  
with it in little casks in carts  
and on mules backs.

Tuesday We have been all around the town  
we saw no less than 14 old ruined churches &  
Monasteries they have been abandoned since  
1845. the priest used to go on with their  
foolery until the President of New Granada  
told them they must either submit to the  
law or leave the country they chose the latter  
they leave bad splendid building the town  
is the same decayed state as Kingstown  
Wednesday I have been this morning to  
change my ticket I cannot find out  
when we start No chance to wait on the  
American Boat

My madien address delivered at the Cowichan  
debating class November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1871

Subject Wood vers Iron which most useful  
to mankind

Mr President and Gentlemen

I am truly pleased that the first  
subject which <sup>we</sup> are to have the honor to debate, is on  
the two substances have and are playing such very  
prominent parts in this worlds history and civilization.

But still it appears to me to be all put in ~~a~~  
the space of a nut shell by, John Sooke who truly observes  
that, Were the use of Iron lost among us we should  
in a few ages be unavoidably reduced to the wants  
and ignorance of the Ancient Savage Americans,

So that he who first made known the use of that  
Contemptible mineral, may truly be styled the,  
Father of Art, and the Author of plenty.

Without Iron we should not have any houses  
which is the germ of civilization, or any Cities  
which are the centers of Industry, Learning and  
civilization.

With only the common crude tools which  
Necessity would suggest if there where no Iron in  
use, we should not be met here this evening  
as the pioneers of this province, for to chop down a tree  
would be the work of a season, with a stone hatchet  
such as where used by the Ancient and uncivilized  
of our own race.

We should not be housed clothed or have any  
of the Benefits which we now enjoy, such as

Museums, Libraries, Magazines and Newspapers,  
sowing Knowledge and pleasure broad cast over  
the civilized world, which I conceive to be the  
greatest blessing of this the 19 century,

We should not enjoy the bond of friendship  
with distant far of friends by letters or quicker  
still the Magnetic Telegraph, which is the bond  
designed to draw Nations together in the bonds  
of friendship and peace,

Without the aid of Iron we should not be able to  
dive in the bowels of the earth to the depth of  
100 and 1200 feet after what is termed the precious  
metals silver and gold without the chiefest of all  
metals Iron or Steel.

Without Iron we should not have any houses which is the germ of civilization, or any cities which are the centers of Industry. Learning and civilization.

With only the common crude tools which necessity would suggest if there were no Iron in use, we should not be met here this evening as the pioneers of this province, for to chop down a tree would be the work of a season, with a stone hatchet such as were used by the ancient and uncivilized of our own race.

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Museums, Libraries, Magazines and Newspapers, sowing knowledge and pleasure broad cast over the civilized world, which I conceive to be the greatest blessing of this the 19 century,

We should not enjoy the bond of friendship with distant far off friends by letters or quicker still the Magnetic Telegraph, which is the bond designed to draw Nations together in the bonds of friendship and peace,

Without the aid of Iron we should not be able to delve in the bowels of the earth to the depth of 1100 and 1200 feet after what is termed the precious metals silver and gold without the chiefest of all metals Iron, or deeper still after coal, tin and salt.

Nor should we have any Banks with their fireproof vaults and fireproof Iron safes with their Patent Bramah locks for the safe keeping of our valuables Gold, silver and gems,

Again where would our manufactures and commerce be without Iron, we should not have the bright page of our own history, illum'd by the Bright of names of Arkwrights, Watts, Stephensons, Maudslays, Nasmyth, Huntress, and a host of others whose names burn brighter than any warrior hero's. Eg. Stephenson said of Iron at the opening of the North Wales Railway (at Bangor) We are daily producing from the bowels of the earth a raw material in its crude state apparently of no worth, but which when converted into a locomotive engine flies over

bridges of the same material with a speed exceeding that of a bird; advancing wealth and comfort throughout the country. Such gentlemen are the powers of that all civilizing instrument. ~~iron~~ Without the steam engine our manufactures and commerce would be at a standstill and we should not advance our national wealth. It is due to her iron and steel that England still continues to hold the first rank among the nations of the earth. And still more to her workers in iron and steel to her Armstrongs, Wedgwoods and Fairbairns.

Let us pay the French Professor speak of the invention of cast steel by Benj<sup>r</sup>. Huntsman as a memorable discovery made and applied with admirable perseverance, and he claims for the inventor the distinguished merit of advancing the steel manufactures of Yorkshire to the first rank, and powerfully contributing to the establishment on a firm foundation of the industrial and commercial supremacy of Great Britain.

It is to the superiority of English iron and the machinery for the manufactory of the same, that she now does the carrying trade of the world.

The Americans press ~~not~~ may sail about the Alabama and other confederate cruisers destroying their carrying trade, but their shipbuilders admit in their report to the U. S. Senate that it is owing to iron vessels superceding wooden ones that they cannot compete with the English ship builders. The Americans with all their

enterprise have not a single line of steamship running eastward from New York, and their home lines of ocean steamships have not a single screw vessel in the passenger trade.

If any one had told our grand parent that iron vessels would float and run from Liverpool to New York in eight and nine days they would have thought them fit subjects for a Lunatic Asylum or that we would make steam and iron plough our land, reap our grain, thresh it, carry it to market, grind it into flour, and become the drudge of man in every thing.

I would tell the last speaker that we are not even dependant on coal for smelting iron, as the Black

contributing to the establishment on a firm foundation of the industrial and commercial supremacy of Great Britain

It is to the superiority of English Iron and the Machinery for the manufacture of the same, that she now does the carrying trade of the world.

The American press may rail about the Alabama and other confederate cruisers destroying their carrying trade, but their shipbuilders admit in their report to the U. S. Senate that it is owing to Iron Vessels succeeding wooden ones that they cannot compete with the English ship builders. The Americans with all their

enterprise have not a single line of steamship running eastward from New York, and their home lines of Ocean steamships have not a single screw vessel in the Passenger trade.

If any one had told our Grand parent that Iron vessels would float and run from Queenstown to New York in eight and nine days they would have thought them fit subjects for a Lunatic Asylum or that we would make steam and Iron plough our land, reap our grain, thresh it, carry it to market, grind it into flour, and be come the drudge of man in every thing.

I would tell the last speaker that we are not even dependant on coal for smelting Iron, as the Black Band Iron ore is fusible in its self.

Again the vast amount of labour Iron gives employment to mankind. Scotland produces 1000 000 tons yearly, at a cost of £ 1,800,000, giving employment to 50,000, in her furnaces of which she employs 125, on Cost principal (the above is the cost of smelting in the furnaces which don't include the min. England produces upward of 400000 tons yearly)

In our debates we were not allowed use Manuscr. only notes J. N. Evans

Arts more attractive than Nature  
affimitive W Duncan Negative S.H. 8.

Mr. President

The subject which is to engage our attention this evening is that Arts is more attractive than Nature. In taking up this Negative I would much rather seen someone more able and gifted than myself open on the subject which is one of deep interest. But I will try and do my best to show that Nature is more attractive than Arts, if I fail on me the blame and not on Nature

By arts we understand something to be created out of the Brain of the artist, or the more common occurrence the copying of something from Nature such as the painting of a landscape picture by the painter or the chiseling of a statue by the sculptor in the shape of a human model which we all admire when the Master mind of the Artist as well copied his model from Nature, but which is it we admire the copy or the original we praise the Artist for the ingenuity of his execution but after all the artist is only portraying Nature, his copy however well executed is only a poor copy of the real, it is the attraction of Nature which draws him to his art.

Again with the photograph of friends we love to look on a Mothers, sisters or Brothers but it is our love for the original which causes us to value them, the photograph of a perfect stranger would not interest us except for the moment, so with paintings if it was not for Nature

we should not value them more than we do a Barber's pole  
painted red and White.

The landscape painter is a slave to nature how he toils  
at his easel, striving to portray nature in all her loveliness  
which throws its enchantment around him, still nature  
is more lovely and sublime than anything he can form or  
delineate on canvas. Emerson in his essay on Nature  
says. Indeed it is the magical light of the horizon and  
the blue sky for a background which saves all our works  
of art which were otherwise Baubles.

Even Sir Edwin Landseer's sporting pictures would not  
have so much attraction for my worthy opponent as the sport  
of a good day hunt; it is not many weeks since he was  
facing a foot or two of snow on Mount Royal after noble  
game deer, and the next day after the ignoble game  
swine, I can speak of the latter day and the game which  
I helped him to bring to bay and also to drag about half  
a mile through the brush and I can assure you Mr. Beside  
that he entered on the sport with a spirit which showed he  
enjoyed it, now I do not think he would travel two days  
through snow to see the whole collection of Sir Edwin Landseer  
works of Arts which I think is well worth seeing which shows  
nature as a strong hold upon him.

Again pictures of fruits are very nice to look upon but  
my eye does not relish them as much as my palate does  
a peacock a bunch of grapes I am quite willing for my  
worthy friend to have all the arts if he will leave me the  
fruits of Nature, they are much more to my taste than  
picture or words.

what painter or what language can portray the loveliness

---

of a waterfall or a dewdrop sparkling so brightly in the  
gorgeous morning sun, or a gushing spring bursting from  
the virgin earth, Paul Denton come nearer to it than  
anything I have met with in his apostate to Water

There is the liquor which God the eternal brews for his  
children not in the simmering still over smoky fires choked  
with poisonous gasses and surrounded by the stench of  
sickening odors and rank corruption let your Father in  
heaven prepare the precious essence of life the pure cold water  
but in the green glade and grassy dell where the red  
deer wanders and the child loves to play, there God himself  
brews it and down down in the deep valleys where the  
mountains murmur and the hills ring and high on the

a mile through the bush and I can assure you Mr. President  
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heaven prepare the precious essence of life the pure cold water  
but in the green glade and grassy dell where the red  
deer wanders and the child loves to play, there God himself  
brews it and down down in the deep valleys where the  
fountains murmur and the rills sing and high on the  
tall mountain tops where the naked granite glitters like  
gold in the sun where the storm cloud hoods and the  
thunder tones crash, and far out on the wide wide  
sea where the hurricane howls music and the big waves  
 roar the chorus, sweeping the march of God there he  
brews it that bairage of life health giving water and  
everywhere it is a thing of beauty gleaming in the dew  
drop singing in the summer rain shining in the ice  
gem till the trees <sup>all</sup> seem turned to living jewels, spreading  
a golden veil over the setting sun or a white gauze across  
the midnight moon, spotting in the catact sleeping  
in the glacier dancing in the hail shower folding its  
bright snow curtains softly around the winter world  
wearing the many colored iris that scratch Zone  
of the sky whose roof is the sun beams of heaven all  
checkered over with celestial flowers by the mystic hand  
of creation still always it is beautiful that blessed

Life Water.

What artist can draw the bursting volcano or the sublime lightning flash we have toiled until it is brought into subjection to man will and bears his thoughts to the extreme ends of the earth this Art President is the great discovery of this the nineteenth century and is entirely owing to Nature and the attraction which it had for Franklin and others before him which as given us the Telegraph. the most dreaded of Natures Agents becomes harmless when we know Natures laws

Nature is the great artist which all try to copy she makes no mistakes in her pictures the colouring is perfect even to the shade all blend together in harmony together.

The sculptor however well he creates marble into statues and models he with all his striving and toil cannot equal much more excell the original he is a slave to Nature Nature is his schoolmaster and a very bad one at that with the toil of ages and the cultivation of the refined senses our own sculptors cannot excell those of ancient Greece after a trial of nearly 3000 years even models in wax fall very far short of the human frame no art or skill of hands or brains can produce anything near equal to it the sleeping beauty of madame Tussauds does not draw so much attraction as the beauties of flesh or blood; to wit manage proves that the living beauties carry the day by their personal attractions and stronger attraction of natural manners and actions

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Poets of all ages and countries have been attracted to Nature and have sung Natures praises from Homer to Dryden and in none more recent than in the verse to Nature which I think is by Cowper

Love

Nature is a temple worthy thee that learns with light and  
Whose flowers so sweetly bloom below whose stars up in above  
Whose alters are the mountain cliffs that rise along the shore  
Whose anthems the sublime accord of storm and ocean roar  
Speaking of Poets remind me of what one immortal poet  
as said of another what Dryden said of Shakespeare was  
the man who of all modern and perhaps ancient poets had  
the largest and most comprehensive soul All the images  
of Nature were still present to him and he could not tell

cannot equal much more excell the original. He is  
a slave to Nature. Nature is his schoolmaster and  
a very bad one at that, with the toil of ages and the  
cultivation of the refined senses our own sculptors  
cannot excell those of ancient Greece after a toil of  
nearly 3000 years. even models in wax fall very far short  
of the human frame no art or skill of hands or brains  
can produce anything near equal to it! the sleeping  
beauty of madame Tussauds does not draw so much  
attraction as the beauties of flesh & blood / to wit Madame  
proves that the living beauties carry the day by their  
personal attractions and stronger attraction of natural  
manners and actions

Poets of all ages and countries have been attracted  
to Nature and have sung Natures praises from Homer  
to Senyson and in none more recent than in the  
verse to Nature which I think is by Cowper

the

Nature is a temple worthy thee ~~that~~ <sup>thee</sup> beams with light and  
Whose flowers so sweetly bloom below whose stars upon above  
Whose alters are the mountain cliffs that rise along the shore  
Whose anthems the outline accord of storm and ocean roar

speaking of Poets remind me of what one immortal poet  
as said of another what Dryden said of Shakespeare was  
the man who, of all modern, and perhaps ancient poets had  
the largest and most comprehensive soul. All the images  
of Nature were still present to him and he drew them  
not laboriously but luckily; when he describes anything  
you more than see it you feel it too, Those who accuse him  
of wanting learning give him the greater commendation  
he was naturally learned he needed not the spectacles  
of books to read, Nature he looked inwards and found  
her there,

Not only Poets but all other writers either give the record  
of Natures events or draw their substance from Nature  
even the romances as to go to nature for the groundwork  
of his novels, and the novels which draw the truest  
pictures of Nature are most valued such as Charles  
Dickens and a host of other writers and books on  
travel are pictures of Nature in different climates  
from Capt. Cooks voyages to Capt. Mc Clinton  
Arctic sea and North west passage and Doctor  
Livingstones Africa to Stuarts the Australasia travel.

they are all hunted after different features of nature  
and are attracted by nature to explore unknown land  
and seas.

Mechanical Arts are copies of human hands  
in the weaving of cloths of different kinds it was  
through seeing of his wife Knitting which caused the  
Rev W See, to invent the stocking frame for the  
Machine Knitting of hose; and to reduce the labours of his  
wife, such Mr President is the foundation of all  
Mechanical Art, they either originate through a  
demand for Machinery; or to lift a load of some ones  
shoulders and ease the burden of their labour  
and not so much attraction for the Art as to supply  
a want, the steam engine was invented by Nasmyth  
to supply a want at the time of the building of the  
Great Britain steamship when it was found that  
no firm in England was capable of forging the  
shaft for her paddle wheels when Nasmyth was  
applied to, he set to work and invented this steam engine  
although not used on the Great Britain shaft  
as the design was changed and she was supplied  
with screw instead of a paddle wheels

Astronomy is one of the most sublime of all sciences  
in every thing else man can cope with what comes  
before him but in Astronomy he learns what a poor  
feeble worm he is when compared with his master  
and all Astronomers are attracted to nature in  
watching the movements of the different heavenly  
bodies they have watched nature so close that they

---

are able to tell of many things before they appear  
such as comets and eclipses of the sun and moon

Geologists are also attracted to nature in working  
out the formation of the earth, Nature is his teacher  
and Nature laws guide him to work out the Problem  
of the different strata of which the earth is formed  
and to fix the dates of the different formations;

Hugh Miller the Geologist speaks of, toil and  
nature, Save for thee and thy lessons man in  
society would everywhere sink into the sad com-  
munity of feind and wild beast and this fallen  
world would be certainly a moral and natural

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Geologists are also attracted to Nature in working out the formation of the earth. Nature is his teacher and Nature laws guide him to work out the Problem of the different stratas of which the earth is formed and to fix the dates of the different formations; Hugh Miller the Geologist speak of toil and Nature Save for thee and thy lessons man in society would everywhere sink into the sad compound of feind and wild beast and this fallen world would be certainly a moral and natural wilderness. but I little thought of the excellency of thy character and of thy teachings, when with a heavy heart I set out about this time of a morning of early spring to take my first lesson from thee in a stone quarry. Hessey which made him a quarry man taught him to be a Geologist speaking of his discovery in the Scottish Lias lying athwart some of the pages thus strangely inscribed we occasionally find like the dark Hawthorn leaf in Bewicks well known Vignette, slim shaped leave coloured in deep umber, and Branches of extinct pines and fragments of strangely fashioned jeans form their ordinary garnishing page after page repeat the same wonderful story

The great Alexandrian Library with its tomes of ancient literature the accumulations of long ages was but a meagre collection not less puny in bulk

than recent in date compared with this marvelous library of the Scotch Lias.

The Zoologist is attracted to nature in his research after different animals and the collections of Museums and Zoological gardens are indebted to the Zoologist: we who have spent any portion of our lives in large cities know how they are crowded if a new specimen be added to the collection. I well remember when the first Giraffe was first shown in London and the huge number of visitors who flocked to see it showing what an attraction there is in nature for the human mind.

The Botonist is also attracted to nature in his research after different plants, the number of useful plants is stated by a German to be, 12 000 with other parts of the world to be not examined even this as been an enormous amount of labour to have even 12 000 plants classed and different uses found for each separate plant.

Public Parks in large towns and private gentlemen Parks are copies of nature in miniture they are to a certain extent artificial which tend all the more to show how much nature is prized by mankind. Even the Yankees of Maine have said they could not see anything good or beautiful unless there was a dollar in it, are expending an enormous

amount of dollars to have a piece of nature in New York in their central park,

My worthy opponents as never been shut up in a large town where cuts are plentiful and nature other wise; or he would know what a pleasure it is to get out into the country of a fresh morning and be with nature; I have therefore I can better appreciate nature in all its loveliness and freshness many times have I longed for the country with its hedge rows of ever green, for

Sweet is the breath of a fair dewy morn

Sweet is the spring when the roses are low

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Sweet is the breath of a fair day more  
Sweet is the spring when the roses are born

Tourist from large cities are attracted to nature now the London tourist travel after the beautiful in nature as soon as the spring sets in some rush of to the seaside some to the westmoreland lakes some to the Highland some to the alps and else where, all attracted by nature to leave their counters desks and tools behind them and be with nature

Now gentlemen I will close with one remark that all love flowers which is one of Nature's gems Even my worthy opponent cultivates some of them which show he is attracted to nature not only in cultivating flowers but all fair produce we certainly would not plant if nature did not know.

Nature is loved by what is best in us, we are all  
Nature's children in all sciences and arts we are  
paying her the highest homage we possibly  
can by consecrating our best energies and abilities  
to her May our arts become more worthy  
of the Great Artist Nature

January 4<sup>th</sup> /872. John Newell Evans

Rewinances of a life time John P Evans

Born Lower Penthysor Berriw-Montgomeryshire  
May 9<sup>E</sup> 1846. an old Farm house thatched  
would say the thatched about a foot-deep, one  
storey with rooms under the thatch used as  
bedrooms for working men and boys, some 6  
rooms down stairs the floor of all except 2 were  
of flagstones you had to pass from one room into each  
other no hall or passageways - bed rooms all had  
great four poster Bedsteads hung with curtain  
all would what we today would call double beds  
Never saw any single or three quarter Beds, no  
stoves not even a cook stove, open fire Places some  
fire places had a brick oven set in behind with  
a sheet of steel at back of fire place - Roast meat  
was cooked by hanging in front of fire by a string  
from the ceiling or by a Jackstool you kept both  
turning around all the time with a pan under  
neath to catch the dripping from the meat and  
you would have a spoon to lift the dripping to  
pour over the the meat - to keep it wet so it  
would not burn & nearly every farm house had  
a large Brick Oven in what we usually called  
the back Kitchen, and it was usually heated  
with brush which came from trimming the hedge  
every year and was stacked in the yard for  
use in the oven, Baking usually once a week  
a open fire place in the living <sup>burnt</sup> room both wood  
& coal in it most of our light was tallow  
dips made at home with tin molds was usually  
your mold would be four or six candles you  
some farms burnt peat-cut from Bogs

hung your wick in mold the bottom of your  
mold would be the top of your candle for it was  
tapeced to a point and the wick would fill the  
space so the fat would not run out, then when  
you filled your mold it did not take long  
for it to cool and set; if you reversed the mold  
and your candle came out. But tallow dips  
were not the principal light by any means the  
usual light was the rush light, you went into the  
swamps or boggy place's and gathered the  
green Rushes took them home peeled them back  
leaving a piece of a narrow strip to hold  
the center or pitch together then you dried the  
striped rush, when dried you got a pan of  
hot grease pretty well boiling take your dried  
rush and draw it through your hot grease  
until it could absorb no more grease, put  
them in a pan to drain then let them dry  
there is your light, but anything but brilliant  
one, and we had a clip on a stand somewhat  
higher than your table, the clip was somewhat  
like a clothes peg - and it took a lot of  
attention to move it along in the clip,  
my recollections of my early boyhood, was going  
to school, my first school teacher was an old  
widow, I do not know what fee's were paid  
but later schools was one penny a week and  
I do not know what the qualifications were  
had to walk something over half a mile  
my elder Bro's and sisters went to Birney

Berriew some two miles further on  
the same Road I went to Berriew-hall  
Berriew was an endowed school you paid  
one penny per week for the first two children  
of one family, the rest went free; and the  
School furnished all Books, slates, and  
every else needed free; I have seen many schools  
all over the world since and have never met  
with any nearly its equal; the Master and  
Misses were fully qualified teachers plenty  
of Black Boards, Maps, Globes, the assistants  
to the Principals were pupil teachers, Teachers  
in training who served so long and then  
went to some College to get their certificates  
to teach; we had a fairly large play yard  
enclosed by a stone wall some ten or twelve  
feet high, the girls had also a similar play  
ground on the other side of the building - I had  
not mentioned there were both boys and girls  
attending the school, the school building  
was a two story stone building the girls were  
up stairs = after attending Berriew School  
I was sent to a private school taught by an  
old crippled man, who had been a companion  
of my father in their boy hood he lived in  
the opposite direction from Berriew and  
his qualification, he could teach the three  
R's. while his hands were all broken up  
he was a fine penman, that was his only

qualification to teach, he had no map or  
any other equipment for teaching, I think  
the reason my father sent me to him was to  
help the old fellow along. I don't know how  
the poor old fellow lived. I think a good deal  
on the left over of the children's lunches.  
My Mother died when I was about ten years old  
and very soon after, the home and nearly all  
the buildings were burnt down. The Land  
Lord would not rebuild, so the home was  
broken up, some cousins of my mother's living  
in London, Mrs Arden and her youngest son  
Edward gave me a home and sent me to a  
private school in Lower Belgrave Place  
supposed to be one of the best schools in London.  
It was not nearly so well equipped as was  
the Berwick; not nearly so many maps and  
no library and I have doubt if our teachers  
were so good, however I attended it for a  
year or more, when I was sent to Shrewsbury  
to a cousin who owned a Drapery business  
on Bridge Hill. I was to have been apprenticed  
to him, for some reason my father came and  
took me home to Wales, he was then living  
on a small farm, near Llandeilo, I had  
been home sometime when I again went to  
London, and got apprenticed to Wm Bunting  
13 King's Street - Covent Garden, the back  
windows look out upon the old graveyard  
in the Drapery Business.

of St Paul's Covent garden and on front  
opposite the Garrick Club; Bunting was  
a widower had two unmarried daughters  
who kept house and also worked in the store  
they later got married that up set the  
house arrangements and broke up the  
house keeping so the old Gentleman decided  
to go out of Business and we sold up the  
stock and I was relieved of my apprenticeship  
I got employment with a Mr Knight on  
the Wallworth Road that was in 1860  
I worked with him until May 1862 - My  
two elder Bro's decided on coming to  
British Columbia May 1862; so I  
wanted time of to see them away from  
Southampton I asked Mr Knight for  
a days leave so I could accompany them  
to Southampton he refused to grant it; so  
I quit the job right then and saw them  
away to B.C. I next got a job in the  
East End of London, in Bishopsgate St  
I only worked a few weeks, when I was  
taken ill, and in order to the Country  
so I went home to Wales - to my Uncle's, when  
I recovered I again went to London and  
got employment with the Bennetts on  
Brixton Hill I staid with them until  
the New year of 1864 when I decided I  
would join my Brothers in British Columbia  
The Bennetts were a nice family Mother Son  
and daughter were very happy there

I went down to Wales and staid with  
different relatives and friends untill I  
left April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864 for B.C.

In the front of this Book you will find a  
Diary of my trip out as far as Panama from  
there to Victoria there was no chance to write  
the accomadation on the Boats on the Pacific  
were vile - we had good Cabins and good  
food on the British Boats, but oh the accomadation  
and food on the American Boats was vile  
when we got to Aspinwall on the East side  
of the Isthmus of Panama, we arrived in the  
evening, the New York boat had got in a  
few hour's ahead; and she was more  
than full with passengers; in 1864 the  
Great American Civil war was raging  
people were getting away from the draft  
and the line of Gold in California was  
the cause of it; the draft was never enforced  
in any of the Pacific States; well the Railw.  
authorities told us they would take us  
across in the morning in time to connect  
with the San Francisco boat; also in the  
morning we found she had pulled out  
as 3 A.M. leaving us behind, we crossed  
to Panama in morning to wait 70 days  
for the next sailing. Aspinwall in those  
days was a dirty port; Panama was  
a clean old town with many old Ruins

buildings churches &c but a nice clean place, a few of us found accomidation in the European Hotel, Clean Room and Bed and board \$1<sup>25</sup> per day; and the food was good the best Tea, or at least in those days and still do think it was the best Tea that I ever drank, my recollection of my stay there are pleasant memories, but my memories of the trip up the Pacific Coast are not so pleasant we had got aboard the San Francisco boat and settled in our Berths before the next New York boat had arrived, the accomidation was vile tier upon tier of bunks end on end four or five in each tier and only a narrow passage way between the bunks, straw mattresses, none to clean, and no bed clothes if you did not have any blankets or Ruggs you went without, and perhaps the food was even worse it was served on tables hung from the deck above by Iron Rods tin plates, tin Cups, meat and potatoes served in great tin dishes and if you reached your fork for a helping you may get two or three forks stuck into your hand, having come aboard a day before the New Yorkers had made the acquaintance of one of the Stewards so they got food all the way up the coast to San Francisco, that was the worse travel I have ever made, we had a

Very smooth pleasant trip up to San Francisco, it was well we did if anything appeared at sea to attract the passengers attention on either side naturally the passenger would flock to that side to see what it was; then you would hear the Officers Rose trim ship to keep the top heavy old lub on an even keel! well we got safely into San Francisco but again delay as we were going into the Golden Gate the entrance to San Francisco harbour, and here we might <sup>say</sup> one of the finest harbour in the world both land locked and hill protected; we met the boat for Victoria direct coming out of the Golden Gate; the next one would go up the Columbia River to Portland before she proceed to Victoria; and a stay of ten days in San Francisco; however it gave a chance to see the different stopping places on the way. It was well I had enough of funds to see me through; quite a change in San Fran since then; and all over the Pacific Coast; No overland Railway or Telegraph then. And Horse Streets from Montgomery to the water front; were all planked and oh after sundown Rats and thin Blue Rats you could scarcely put your foot down with out stepping on one and out across Market; then the old Mission and the

sand hills still & the sand was alive  
with them; but there is a brighter picture  
of that wonderfull city which I think I  
should copy here by Ida N Coolbrith

City by the Golden Gate

Little the goodly fathers

Building their Missions rude  
By the lone untraversed waters,  
In the Western solitude!

Dreamed of the wonderfull city  
That looks on the stately Bay,  
Where the banded ships of the Nations  
Float in their pride today,

Dreamed of the beautiful city,  
Proud on her tawny height,  
And strange as a flower up springing  
To bloom in a single night.

For lo but a moment lifting  
The veil of the years away

We look on a well known picture  
That seems but as yesterday

The mist rolls in at the gateway  
Where never a fortress stands

On the blossoms of Sausalito

And Yerba Buena's sands

Swathing the shores were only

The sea birds come and pass

and drift with the drifting water

By dissolved Alcatraz

We hear when the night drops down and  
And the bay throbs under the stars  
The Ocean-Voices blending,  
With the ripple of soft guitars  
With chiming bells of the Mission  
With passionate minors sung  
Or a quaint Castilian ballad  
Sung in the Spanish tongue  
Fair from thy hills & city  
Look on the beautiful bay  
Proud far is the Vision  
Greeting our eye's today  
Better the thronged waters  
And busy streets astir  
Purple and sullen raiment -  
Balsam and balm and myrrh -  
Gems of the further Indies  
Gold <sup>of</sup> thy own rich mine  
and the pride and boast of the people  
O beautiful Queen are thine  
Praise to the goodly fathers  
With banners of faith unfurled  
Praise to the sturdy heroes  
Who have won thee to the world  
That was a day to dream of  
That was a life we led  
Bleeding the veins of the Mountains  
Draining the torrents red  
Scorching the dusky canon

Tracing the pathless glen  
She shot the knife and the struggle  
With savage beasts and men  
Was blessed in the rest that follows  
In the thought of a labor past  
Blessed in the homes we have builded  
The peace and rest at last  
And blessed indeed the winter  
That rinses the smiling Spring  
When hands the seed have scattered  
May gather the blossoming  
Certainly a most beautiful and lovely  
city; well our stay came to an end and  
we boarded the old ship the Boston the  
Pacific (she was later lost) for Victoria;  
by the way of Portland we crossed the  
Columbia River bar the entrance to the  
Columbia River - and on up to Portland  
not much of a town in those days, the  
principal <sup>then</sup> ~~was~~ was the Brewery we staid  
there two days discharging freight and  
taking freight <sup>on</sup> she did not call into  
Portland on her return from Victoria so  
she took on freight for San Francisco - and  
there were no steam Winches in those days  
however at last we were going down the  
River and headed for Victoria after a  
good passage we arrived in the Straits  
just as the sun was rising one fine

June morning it was a beautiful sight  
looking at the wooden hills all clothed  
in green; it was the first glimpse of my  
future home, we landed at Esquimalt and  
walked in to Victoria our baggage was  
brought around to Victoria by a little old  
steamer named the Emily Harris after the  
wife of the first Mayor of Victoria, my two  
elder brothers had come to British Columbia  
during the Cariboo Gold Rush in 1862 they  
did not get so far; Many a disappointed Gold  
seeker was on their way back; so they decided  
to stay and work on the Old Cariboo Road  
at Yale, nearly every one in the earlier days  
of B.C. returned to Victoria for the winter  
so then many one roomed Cabins built all  
over town, most along Stone Street and  
Humboldt St they had both returned to Yale  
in 1863 and also to Victoria for the winter;  
in 1863 my elder Bro Jim went to Cariboo  
David staid on in Victoria living in  
a cabin of Stone brick, working odd days  
around town when I arrived in June 1864;  
so when I had been here a few days I found  
there was plenty of work building Roads  
around Victoria, I went out to interview  
Charley Ashe on the Craigflower Road  
he had a contract from Craigflower to  
Parsons Bridge I got work both for myself

and my brother so we moved out to the  
Ash Camp my first days work was  
just under were E & N Ry Bridge crosses the  
road by the four mile house, and oh my  
poor hands they were just raw skin all  
peeled of them, some the boys told Ashe the  
state they were in, so he stopped and asked me  
to show them to him, so he sent me into  
camp for a few days, We had nearly finished  
the job when that never to be forgotten Gold  
Rush to Leach River broke out, Victoria went  
gold mad, straight flower Road was just  
black with all the road gang except myself  
and an old Scotchman joined the stamped  
car stock to Charlie until we finished  
up the job, well when I got to Victoria I  
was looking for a job from across Billy  
Tyler who owned a team of horses and  
was teaming around Victoria, he had work  
for Ashe, so he sent me to see Rodrick Finlay  
at the Hudson Bay store, and when I saw that  
he needed a man, Finlaysons wife and the  
man who working around Finlaysons house  
had some trouble over Finlayson Boy, but  
I found when I saw Finlayson they had  
settled everything and the man was staying  
on, but he sent me in along to his Mother and  
Mrs Work at Hillside, I do not know if Mrs  
Work was a half breed or a full blood  
Indian

Any way when I got there I hunted up  
Old Billy Pottinger he had charge of the  
outside work he took me to see the old Lady  
stated I wanted work and she said she  
wanted a man that were the trouble come  
in, I must have been a hard looking guy,  
but she would not give me work until I went  
to Finlayson and got a certificate of character  
which I declined to do as Mr. Finlayson was  
a stranger to me, so I did not get work,  
when we left Mr. Pottinger took me over  
the Road to Carter who then rented Hill  
side farm, which belonged to the Worle  
Estate; it was just noon and they were all  
in at lunch, and it was in the middle of  
harrow: Yes Carter did want a man and was  
on badly to bind oats, after a cradle ~~and~~  
she did not ask for any <sup>refugee</sup> simply  
if I could bind oats and I said I had  
bound oats, so I went in had lunch, or  
I think we in those days called it dinner  
it was the chief meal of the day and went  
out to the field with the Cradler while I had  
bound oats and wheat at home and had  
learned to make a band in the English  
way it was a slow way the cradler  
showed me how to make it in the American  
way pretty soon I could keep up with  
him cradling, and its good work to

Kup up with a Cradle - I staid with  
Gates untill we finish harvest - when  
Harry King of Church Farm Cedar Hill  
came and asked me to go and work for  
him, while in them days there were not many  
acres of cleared land on the Church Farm  
which belong to Bishop Hills, Harry was  
paying \$50<sup>00</sup> per year rent and clearing  
land all the time which the Bishop did  
not pay for; Harry was running Considerable  
of a Milk business in Victoria; milled  
about 20 Cows, used to buy a lot of feed  
principally Brewer's Grains from the Brewer  
and California Wild Oat Hay; a lot was  
baled and shipped to Victoria, it used to  
grow all over the California Plains today.  
You can only find it in Enclosed Cemetery  
or some were fenced of, I worked at Cedar  
Hill away into the fall and I could see  
he had to many men so I quit and went  
to another Milk man down on Moss Street  
the Name of Geo Pearce - or it should be  
Pear's he had only two acres rented from  
Judge Kimbuton; run his Cows in the  
bush and on Beacon Hill; bought his  
hay and Brewer grain and some mill feed  
grew Roots on the land he kept about 10  
or 12 Cows he made money and he kept  
it to December on 24<sup>th</sup> of May we as

us all had our Celebration on Beacon Hill, and we were both there a kind friend thought he had more use for a few dollars and anything else that was laying around walked in and helped himself to what he could carry off without been seen. I was the principal loser I lost two watches and ~~and~~ about \$20<sup>00</sup> in cash I had left home - but they overlooked an old 3 gallon rusty milk tin hanging from the rafters of the Cabin which contained \$600<sup>00</sup> in silver, so George lost but very little, the dairy herd paid well while the dairy man bought most of his feed and then as now he would have some bad milk Bill which he could never collect; I worked some 9 or 10 months in his employ when I returned to work for Harry King, the general pay by the month at that time was \$35<sup>00</sup> per month and Board; Harry King was one of the finest men I have ever worked for, and he would not think of asking you to do any work he would not do himself I worked for him up to the day I left to go to the Gold Mines in California, He drove me and Jim Lawrence ~~and~~ down to the boat to see us off, we went away in the fall of 1866 - my Bro Jim had gone down some months previously and was working steadily at \$15<sup>00</sup> per day so many people would think that it would be

a far better pay than experienced both but  
would say you would fair more working at \$55.<sup>00</sup>  
per Month far around a mining Camp or Town some  
thing would always be coming up to cause you  
to expend money even you would not think of it  
on the Ranch, and usually <sup>would</sup> did not get in a full  
Month's work, however we were away to that land  
of Sunshine Fruits and Flowers - any it is a won-  
derfull Country within her borders you can grow  
from the Semi Tropic to the Temperate Zone or  
as may say from the Tropic to perpetual snow, I  
see where we drafted Trees with 20 feet of a  
Snow fall; yes a most-wonderfull Climate, yet  
its heat is not oppressive you can easily sleep during  
the night; I returned there in 1866 - my destination  
was the Gold mines in and around Forest  
Hill a ridge running from the foot hills to  
the Summit of the Sierra Nevada, a land that  
had produced lot of Gold - were the Miners  
had built many many miles of Great Ditches  
to carry the water which they washed away  
the Great Gravel Beds in which the Gold  
had been stored from remote ages, but I cannot  
picture to the reader of these lines the Marvel of  
it-all, but I must try and give you the impression  
left upon my mind, you must remember there was  
no Great Overland Railway the Vision was then  
just dawning upon those men who a few years  
later built that wonderfull band of steel that was  
to bind the Atlantic to the Pacific.

well arriving in San Francisco our next  
morn was up the muddy Sacramento River  
to the City of Sacramento arriving there we  
took stage for different points mine was  
along the Route to Auburn which in a very  
few years was the Route adapted by the Great  
Central Pacific Railway, but leaving  
Sacramento by stage the traveler would not  
be very favorable impressed by the appearance  
of the country for the making of future homes  
a dry desolate land all Brown and bare  
a few starved sheep running there on  
but what a change was in the making  
the Miner in the development of his mines  
had brought water in great Ditches from  
the high Sierra Mountains along the high  
ridges across Canyon's by means of high  
Trestles and flumes to convey the water he  
needed to carry on his mining, and then  
came a dark day for the mining interest they  
could no longer ~~burn~~<sup>smelt</sup> the debris down the  
Canyons and Rivers which was choking up  
the Rivers and overflowing her Valley land  
but perhaps it was a blessing in disguise  
for there was the water awaiting for the  
farmer to do his irrigation, which as brought  
forth such wonderful crops that all the  
world wonders producing crops that  
no other spot on the earth can compare or  
compete with her, but my mission to

California was not the production of  
Crops, but to dig into her Mountains for the  
precious Metal Gold, while gold had been  
produced from her what we may call  
her surface mining it had now entered  
another stage the drifting into old River  
Beds over which the old Rivers had flowed  
ages and ages ago; leaving their deposits  
that some future generation may dig up  
many of the old beds were many hundred  
feet from the earth's surface and perhaps  
the same from the bedrock; and when the  
Miner gives a thought to those things he  
may begin to realize what a puny thing he  
is himself; but we certainly want to leave  
some records of the drift-gold mining of  
California; and here I would boldly assert  
with out fear of the fact "that there are  
other miners in existence" who may make  
a claim for them as the best of all; but  
we are they when something crops up that  
upsets all they had previously learned of  
mining; they are generally helpless; I have  
seen them; so I know whereof I speak; but  
the drift-gold miner is never at a loss he  
allways on the look out for trouble for it is  
allways at his elbow; take the difference  
with a Coal mine nearly allways a good  
roof; the Gold drift-mines allways a bad  
roof; and of timber from start to finish

often he as to force the lagging a head of his work to keep up his roof; it would not do to allow his roof to leak or it would leave a space that would keep pouring down all the time, and the miners had to carry his timber up close to the face of his work so I certainly doff my cap to the drift Gold Miners of California, and I made many friends during my stay in that sunny land, perhaps the happiest days of my life I spent there; I found good noble hearted men and women, of whom I made friends, my return to B.C. was caused by the death of my Bro Jim's wife she left a little girl behind, without any one except her father to look after her, so my wife decided we must return, I had in the mean time married Mary Jane Davis of Porterville and brought her to Cowichan to live but a short stop I had to return with her to California on account of sickness, so when Jim's wife died we had again to reverse it, and return to B.C.

We have seen many changes all over the Pacific Coast during the many years of residence here, when we first came you may say it was all a dense forest, take for instance Duncan's, the East side of the Railw<sup>y</sup> was covered by a heavy thick growth of Maple and Alder timber, growing very thick on the ground on the West side a heavy growth of second growth pine but oh so thick and

long; and our tools were not such as we  
have today single bited axes, saws with  
no lance tooth or rackets to draw out the  
saw dust; we had no stumping powder  
all clearing was done by manual labor  
so you of the present day cannot begin to  
picture what the old pioneers had to face.  
The first thing he did after establishing him  
self in his cabin, would decide were in  
the thicket he would do his first clearing  
Having decided that point, he would start  
under brushing it, by cutting all the under  
brush and pile it into heaps on the ground;  
he would follow up this by gradually cutting  
and piling the larger and longer growth  
but cutting the large trees into log length  
and lidding them all up and piling the  
limbs upon the brush piles; most of the  
trees so cut was the saving of labor later  
the green tree was far easier to cut into length  
green than later when it become dry or half  
dried; so the more carefull you did the  
first work you save labor later, so when  
you had brushed and chopped what you had  
estimated you could do - you would have  
left a few yards around you chopping to  
keep your fire; when you did burn out  
of the green timber, to save your labor later  
when you would extend your chopping

you would not want to be cutting into  
dried stuff. in chopping down the larger  
and longer trees you would chop them into  
log lengths while still green for the same  
purpose of saving time later, cuttings the  
trees into lengths you were looking forward  
to a logging Bee; when you invite your  
neighbours near and far to attend a logging  
Bee, you would have been preparing for it  
for some time in advance, first you would  
lay in a stock of hand spikes for many would  
be broken during the Bee, and you must  
bear in mind our Pioneers were the cream of  
the race wherever they came from, and at an  
age when Manhood was in its prime; and  
man's muscle was well developed, so when the pioneer  
got his hand spike underneath a log either  
the log rolled or the handspike broke; you  
very probably have two or three yokes of oxen to  
haul the logs into piles - and you would  
make your Bee up into so many gangs so  
many men to a gang and a Captain to every  
gang, and at the word go you would see  
the logs move into piles, we did not  
burn the log piles the day we rolled them up  
only logs that required two or more men were  
rolled up, smaller logs were left until  
the next day when they would be fired and  
the smaller logs piled on as the fire burned

the piles; and we all, were there to  
work and every one did his best. The  
following day the owner of the land would  
begin to fire up the piles he would generally  
start his fire on the tops of the pile by  
gathering up the small dry stuff laying  
around and pile it on to the fire; and  
then he would keep rolling in the logs  
as they burned; plenty of work to keep the  
fire stirred up and picking the small  
stuff and also raking up the chips all  
laying around. Nearly every settler would  
own a Blacksmith's made Rake; with  
longer teeth than the bought store Rake.  
Yes, the burner would find plenty of employ-  
ment, and he usaly worked a little quicker  
than he usaly did, to keep up with his  
work, yes will say when burning he kept-  
up his speed and then having raked over  
the ground he would be able to see many of  
the larger roots extending from the stumps  
he would cut and grub them up to burn, most  
of the smaller stumps he would grub up  
and then he would try to plow between the  
stumps slow heart breaking work calling  
for the patience of Job, then came the  
sowing and Harrowing with a little  
home made Harrow, usaly make of three  
triangular poles, Blacksmith made teeth  
holes bored and teeth driven in tight.

harvesting come next wheat was often  
reaped with scythe slow work but it was  
in better state when you considered how  
you were going to thresh; with the flail or  
now commonly called the property sticks,  
you placed your sheaves on the thrashing  
floor usually half a dozen or a dozen at a  
time; half of them fronting to the center of  
the floor from one way the others from the  
other way points slightly over lapping; then  
your work would begin; to beat the sheaves  
with your flail if the grain had not been  
properly harvested and was on the tough  
side, you would earn your grain; well having  
laid your sheaves upon thrashing floor  
you would do considerable pounding upon  
them before you would mow them, then you  
would turn them over and go at them again  
next time you would until the sheaves  
and pound them until you could see no  
grain fly from the flail blow; then you  
would take your fork and well shake the  
straw and throw the straw away and  
shake or rake all the longer straw left  
in the grain from the floor, and push back  
the grain to one side of the floor and repeat  
your thrashing programme; when the floor  
would get crowded with grain you would  
stop your thrashing and clean up your grain  
your thrashing floor usual had door's or opening

on each side. if you were fortunate enough  
to own a Tanning Mill or could borrow one  
from your neighbours you would get to  
work and clean up your grain and stow  
it away; if lacking a tanning mill you  
would pile your grain to one side and  
with your two (2) doors open you would  
take a shovel and throw your threshed  
grain as high as you could up against  
the wall between you two doors of the  
threshing floor; the wind between the doors  
would carry the chaff away and the grain  
but heave in would fall in a heap, you may  
have to repeat according to your wind, but  
many was the devices adopted by Peones,  
what changes are taking place all the time  
the flail was replaced, perhaps first by spreading  
the grain upon the threshing floor then driving  
your horse over it to tramp out; the grain, then  
came the horse power, in Amuria the tread  
power one or two horses, The tread was an  
endless apron you elevated it about a hitch  
of 45° and placed your belt on your machine  
place your horse in the tread it would be  
necessary for him to be shod with good toe  
casulles to keep his feet on the tread, a herd  
will stand on a horse, but he had far more  
power than on a Jesus's power they were  
generally in use in the early days of Amuria  
horse power, but I don't think they ever made  
you had a Bratle on your horse power

any head way in England, in the early 60's  
the sweep power was in full force, I can well  
remember my father owning one which he hired  
out to neighbours at so much per day he sent  
two men and four horses with it; those were  
soon followed with steam power which cleaned  
the grain and then the change was made by  
the charge of so much per bushel of grain.  
but looking back we cannot see any ~~advantage~~  
~~real~~ - in cost of thrashing, my old friend  
Wm Robertsoe of Westholme used to go around  
thrashing with his flail at 10¢ a Bushel  
Oats and 12½¢ for wheat - your big power  
machines can not reduce those figures; when  
you add up all the costs, but we have made  
great progress when we compare the scythe  
or the sythi with our binders that most  
wonderfull of invention the automatic Thresher  
that when so much grain get into its arms  
extind the string around the bundle and  
ties it up automatically and cuts off the straw,  
and now carries the bundles and drops them  
in bunches to be stacked up; to dry, then you  
would haul it into the Barn to be threshed  
the same work year after year, our crop  
yield per acre are not so favorable as in  
the pioneer days when the land was in  
its virginity, today more care is required  
in culturating it, the many little fibrous  
roots have disappeared out of the soil leaving

Now compact and not so easy to work  
but I also think the trouble is with the man  
and not the soil we try to cultivate to  
many acre's per want to do the work in to  
easy manner riding a sulky plow skimming  
the surface instead of stirring up the soil so  
it could hold moisture for the growing crop  
and we don't follow our rotation crops  
enough

In the foregoing no mention as been made  
to Churches, School or any other gathering  
and they were allways to the fore perhaps  
the Churches should be placed before School,  
they came first- My old friend Father  
Roundault was the first Priest or Preacher  
to come to the District in fact he was the  
second white man to settle in the Cowichan  
District the late Jack Humphrys was the  
first, if memory serves me right Humphrys  
came in 1857 Roundault in 1858 that was  
four years before the great-great Canadian  
Gold Rush; but it was the year's of the  
Fraser River Gold Rush, we have had many  
Rushes to different spots in the Province but  
the three principal ones Fraser River 1858  
Comox 1862 and the Leech River in  
1864, when Victoria went Gold Mad, the  
Craigflower Road was black with men, I  
was at that time working for Charlie Ashe  
nearly finishing his contract when all

his men quit - except myself and an  
old Scotchman, and old Hudson Bay man  
we staid with him to finish up; After we  
had finished and gone into Victoria  
Bulwer are now considering churches  
The Pioneer priest was that noble old  
man The Rev. and Father Rowdall  
who built the old stone church over looking  
Cowichan Bay which stands as a monument  
to his memory. The best Christian I have ever  
met, and during my stay in London during  
my younger days, I met through my friend  
the Arber the most prominent Clergy of  
the day - always attended the Peter Hall  
Lectures every season and all the most  
eminent preachers from all over England  
gave lectures. The Rev. Father was the friend  
of every one, he met every one with a smile  
and a word of cheer, when I state that  
in my youth I had been brought up  
to abhor and detest Catholics, the life  
of that dear old man gave me a broader  
view of life, and I owe much to his life and  
example if I have accomplish anything in  
after life, and my memory of his friendship  
I will carry with me through life. The  
Catholic Church was the first built but there  
was a little wooden one built nearer to the  
bridge before the stone one, and there are  
many tales and legends floating around

that there was never any service held  
in the old stone church. The church was  
blessed and dedicated By Bishop

Hemans and service held in for some ten  
(10) years the reason service was discontinued  
was when the Sisters of St. Ann located where  
they at present reside, the distance was then so  
great for the children to attend service in the  
church you must also bear in mind our roads in  
those days were mud roads not hard finished

The next church built was St. Peters not  
on the site of the present St. Peters but about  
the lane leading to the Rectory barn, I think  
I am correct the Rev Archdeacon Reese was its  
first Resident Rector, but services had been  
held previous to his advent by the Rev Garrett  
who later left B.C. and went to Texas he used  
to ride up over the old Sooke trail from Victoria  
once a month he was doing that service in  
1864 - he also supplied Cedar Hill in 1864  
where I first met him a fine ~~congenial~~ man  
a good horseman, he would look after his  
horse before himself. But Cowichan District  
is very much in debt to Archdeacon Reese  
the father of the Cowichan Agricultural Society,  
Cowichan Library and Debating Society, at  
the out-start of the library we could not get a  
Librarian who was available at all times  
so we set one evening a week when we met  
to extend exchange Books and he the Pres

Mr Reece conceived the idea of putting  
in an evening by having a debate to fill out  
the Evening and in the early 1870's we spent  
many a pleasant evening with profit to all  
and we went to our several locations looking  
forward to our next meeting; for very probably,  
we would not see anyone until we met again  
mind we only got our mail once a week at  
most and sometime that failed us and then  
our nearest post office was at the several Bay,  
9 or 10 miles away, but oh the neighbors  
were so kind if any one went to the Bay on  
Steam boat days; he would carry home the  
mail for his neighbors, church

The old Methodist Maple Bay was  
the next church built but for years it had  
not a resident minister, Rev Bryant Hanino  
and others supplied the service; in the  
early 70's many other churches were built  
But we have omitted any word of the old  
Log Building on the North side of Somers  
Lake used before St Peters, I have never been  
able to discover whether it was built for  
a School or Church; was used as both in 1870  
and stood there for many years and the  
name of Wm L<sup>y</sup> Somers who was the <sup>first</sup> school  
teacher in the District taught School there  
all of the P'oria children of the District  
had to go there; there was no other and  
many a weary mile they had to walk through  
the woods to get to school

and our Roads in those days were simply  
tracks cut through the woods stumps cut  
level with the ground, Mr Lomas used to  
take his canoe across Somenos Lake to bring  
his school children to school and take them  
back after school, the parents paid so much  
fees per Month; and then later the old Mission  
building Quamichan was built and  
Mr & Mrs Lomas were in charge when I  
first came to the District 1870; he teaching the  
children and she teaching the girls to sew;  
that was before there were any Sewing Machines  
at that time the Mission was by far the  
prettiest spot in the District - lot of flower beds  
from the Road up, the church of England paid  
or made up his salary in addition to fees up  
to \$40<sup>00</sup> per month which was the first rate  
of pay, while he was the first School Teacher  
in the District he was not the first Public  
School teacher paid out of Public funds, the  
First Public School teacher was R M Clemens  
and he taught in the first Public school built  
on the end of the Lake's Road at junction  
with Maple Bay Somenos Road, now known  
as the Hard Road, Lomas shortly afterwards  
got the appointment to (2) two schools on the  
South side of the Cowichan River namely the  
Beach and the Kokashish Schools, he taught  
on alternate days in each School; three days  
one week and two days the next. He later

received the appointment as our first Indian Agent from the Dominion Government an office he who so well fitted to fill, there have been several Agents since since fine noble men but none touched the Indian's heart the same as Lomas, he could say anything to them and they would take it all in good part and do as he wished them to do, he in some way had a great influence over them Two men who have lived here, held the love and respect of our Indians namely Wm Ly Lomas, and the Rev Father Randell at the funeral of Wm Ly Lomas from Campbell corner to the Long Bridge the road was black with Indian. Came from every where to pay their last token of love and respect to their friend I have alway thought how very much this District are indebted to those noble men, mind you the Cowichan tribe of Indians did not bear very good name in the early days, in fact the war ship once came up after a murderer and hung him from the limb of an oak tree near the Rectory, I think it - as since been cut down, while it stood, no Indian would go under it When we look back over the years we can hardly realize what advancement has been made not alone in schools but in every thing the Pioneer children often walked five miles each way to school through dense forests, with but few settlers living on the wayside - today a bus you may say picks them up at their

over door and returns them home after school; then one school served all North of the Cowichan River and the old school held all grades and one teacher to teach all grades only one wagon and one team of horses in the District - in 1870 owned by those noble Pioneers Wm and Joseph Drinkwater they had brought them all the way from Ohio, U.S.A., they were Englishmen natives of Gloucester came out to Ohio then on further West to Oregon, two staunch English men Vancouver Island with the British flag afloat, was calling them, they first came to Saanich were they wintered 1861. and came to Comox in 1862, located on Range 3 & 4 Section 3 Comox District at that time they were both Bachelors, the government brought out a ship load of Brides on the Robot-Low around Cape Horn and Wm selected one of them they lived very happy, a few years later they dissolved partnership and divided the land they originally located on 300 acres - Wm retained the Valley farm of 100 acres - Joseph taking the West 200 acres and built up on Fawn Hill, two of our best Pioneers, nearly all the Bachelors of the rear neighborhood made their home at Fawn Hill, two very remarkable men Wm one of the coolest men you could imagine, when setting milking a cow one morning his wife gave the alarm of fire, Wm thought what was the trouble but thought he would

finish milking his cows before going in  
in the mean time some of our younger people  
were returning home from a dance happened  
along and put it out; Drink water was  
always early Rises, 4 a.m. was then time,  
and our dancers kept up the dance until  
day light - so you see how they fit in,  
and our dances were not a very large  
affair usual held in a private house, but usually  
our living Room's were pretty large and the  
music for dance was usually one Violin, but  
I would say we had more enjoyment to the  
square foot than you do today with 5 or 6  
instruments, we use to have two events that  
all attended; Red lettered days of the year;  
Harvest home with a dance held in the  
Glebe Barn, St. Peter rectory and the Bachelor  
Ball given in some Residence, the bachelors  
would invite all the married people in the  
district and some from the outside also and  
of course the young ladies as well as old ones  
were not left out; the Bachelors provided  
every thing and it would be a night given  
over to enjoyment.

Well I have omitted any mention of  
living conditions in 1870 I said only one  
team of horses, in District and one wagon  
but there were several Yoke of Oxen and  
home made sleds with dog wood shores  
the sled was of a natural grown crook if you

found a tree with the right crook big  
enough to make two runnies you would  
wip saw it; if not you may have spent considerable  
time locating two crooks alike and you made  
you sled at home the same as you did every  
thing you needed around the house and building  
then the living conditions no furniture except  
home made - Beds trades Table's stools &c  
to cook stor open fire place a few iron pots  
with adjustable bales, to hang over the fire;  
A dutch oven for Baking in iron pot with  
straight-sides about a foot deep with iron  
legs underneath 6 or 8 inches long and also  
a dished iron cover; to hold your hot-coals  
for Baking; you kept hot-coals underneath  
and on top the legs underneath was to keep  
it off the hearth so you keep fresh hot-coals  
on it and under it all the time, you had  
to attend it constantly, but I consider the  
bread baked in a dutch oven nicer than  
out of a stor; if we had Buff (puff) or  
venison to roast - we had the choice of the  
dutch oven or hang on a string in front  
of the fire, the oven some what the quietest  
we also consumed Considerable Corn Beef  
Neighbours would club together and kill  
a Beef in turn's 4 of them and each  
would take a quarter and salt it down  
in a barrel, some would eat it up quick  
than others and would be calling for more

our Baking in the Dutch oven usually on  
Sundays for most of the Settlers were Bachelors  
and Sunday was their Cooking and Wash  
day usually a full time busy day, when if  
possible we would try to find time to Visit  
our neighbors all together we had not  
much spare time on our hands, but most  
of us were very happy looking forward toward  
the future with hope for success and prosperity.

Our locations were nearly all heavy  
timbered, the District I think was originally  
Surveyed by Mr. Wells according to my  
information in 1858 our settlers came in  
1862, in those days our Land Laws  
were such you could buy the land outright  
from the Government at \$5.00 per  
acre, and you got your deed fast - the  
other mode was you could preempt  
it at \$1.00 per acre but you had to  
live so long and put so much improvement  
there on before you got your deed the  
Surveyor's furnished information to the  
Land Speculator what Sections were fairly  
cleared of heavy timber and in good  
locations, hence when the land was  
thrown open to preemption the land grabbers  
had the choice lots. but I do not call  
to mind that any of them realized any  
thing on their speculation; in fact most  
of them after paying taxes thereon for many

sold it for what they gave for it; and  
lost very considerable in interest and  
values; We have seen our mud Roads  
develop into Gravelled Roads, with many  
light Buggys drawn by light horses to the  
hard finished Roads with Autos traveling  
60 miles an hour quite a difference to the  
Oxen at 3 miles; our mud roads for our  
then needs were better than our hard finished  
Road would be; with only one Team of horses  
and one wagon, could not begin <sup>to buy</sup> the need  
for transportation, hence our mud Roads  
with with our wooden sleigh drawn  
by oxen served better than would have we  
had hard gravel Roads, which would  
have taken more power to draw a load  
there on, and also after nearly every trip  
you would <sup>need</sup> new shoe's for your sled, so  
our Roads have developed according to  
our needs, the sled suited the mud Road  
better than wheel's, what our future Roads  
will be its hard to foresee, at the present  
rate of Auto growth the Roads must be  
made wider and the Police must place more  
control over the traffic, possible and I think  
very probably our Aeroplane's will relieve the  
Road traffic by taking it into the air, I  
myself have a dream that in side the life  
time of some of our children we will all be  
equiped with a little Machine we could  
carry in our pocket or about our body with

set of wings folded up like a bird  
set the little machine a going expand  
the wings and away you go

In the foregoing pages no mention has  
been made to Public or Municipal Affairs  
and I was always more or less mixed  
in them I have not the dates at hand so  
will give the facts as I remember them.

The Government in the first place looked  
after and had control of our Roads things  
went fairly smoothly for some years without  
any friction. They appointed a man named  
Titus to take charge and administer our  
Roads, a man who lived in Victoria - I can't  
say what his qualification for the job, but  
this he was a self contained man, Coming  
to the District in the Summer Months when  
all the Roads were dry and hard he could not  
conceive what those same Roads were during  
the Winter months, the settlers would point  
out to him the bad winter spots and asked  
to have them fixed during the time he was  
on the job - he just went on doing work we  
were fancy led him, well the settlers were  
pretty well fed up with Mr. Titus and  
his work; and a lot were very dissatisfied  
with C. Duncan after whom the City of Duncan  
was named - and myself had many a  
talk over it; Mr. Duncan had lived in  
a Municipality in Ontario before he came  
to British Columbia so knew all about the

way they were worked and administered  
them so we decided we would take around a  
petition for the settlers to sign asking that  
North Cowichan on the North side of the  
River including Chemainus be formed  
into a Municipality nearly every one signs  
I forwarded to the Provincial Secretary  
just as I was leaving B.C. for California  
the petition was granted and Municipal  
Council was duly organized. First Warden  
was the late Thomas Skinner of Saanich, Warden  
was the title of its presiding Officer in the early  
days; later changed to Reeve; only one  
member of the first Municipal <sup>revenue</sup> today alive  
Mrs Horace S Davis of Somers now of  
Chemainus, North Cowichan Municipal  
was a success from <sup>the</sup> start for many years  
she lived within her income and greatly  
improved her Roads and built new ones  
then some of her leader's conceived the  
idea of borrowing to give more improvement  
to her Roads, and the cry they used to get  
the money was "Let future generations pay  
for it", oh what a mistake the present  
generation must begin to pay even before  
they get the money - they don't get 100 or  
Cent per in the first place so they are paying  
the Bond holder interest on money they never  
received them, yet I believe North Cowichan  
as per Cap. Rate is the lowest in B.C. and  
her Roads have cost her less than any

Other District, in her earlier days, she did all or 99 per cent by Contract and she has always been very fortunate in having good Road Superintendents, I have often been asked by Road Engineers and others how we had done it' and the Ans we would be by Contract, and then few Districts have been blessed with the number of Gravel pits available all over the District and drainage of her Roads usually good, all of which has been in her favor and added to all to men who have given their time and energy to the service of the Municipality - the change from her Mud Roads to her present hard finished ones has been a slow gradual development

Well I have only mentioned in the earlier pages of my narrative to Mary Jane Davies of Northville California and I could not be so ungrateful to her memory to let it go at that, I who owe so much to her Companionship love and labor during which the 63 years of married life together I have often thought that I was a selfish brute to ask her to come to the bush in BC to make a home out of the wilderness you women of today would certainly Rebel at the then conditions nearest woman Neigh town some three miles away, no Roads simply trails through the bush the nearest place she could

purchase anything Wearable for herself  
would be in Victoria, Steam Boats to the  
different Bay's once a week and you perhaps  
living 9 or 10 miles away from the bay's and  
on top of all this the living conditions were  
poor, the early settlers of Cowichan Valley were  
not Wealthy by any means, I had some \$300<sup>00</sup>  
when I decided on Cowichan as my future home  
I paid \$150<sup>00</sup> to <sup>Tom Nichol</sup> abandon his pre-emption  
rights so that I could re-preempt it; there  
was a Cabin of logs (all our Buildings were  
of logs) a Barn of logs, 20x30 about 3 acres  
of land cleared, all the rest heavily timbered

Not a promising spot to bring a bride  
to, yet through all the years I never heard  
a word of complaint at our condition and  
many times there were very good grounds  
for them, we all tried to save the dollar  
we ever we could and what we thought  
was an opportunity Mr. Crate decided to  
build and operate a Flour Mill on the  
outlet of Quamichan Lake the Mill was  
built just below the Trunk Road, so the  
settlers set to work to grow wheat to save  
buying flour, well I took a Bag of wheat  
to be ground brought it home, wife set  
the sponge that evening thinking we would  
have some home grown bread to eat  
the following day the sponge did not

Look anything so promising and the bread  
was less so, instead of Bread it produced  
liver, our flour Barrel was empty so instead  
of waiting to send to Victoria for a Barrel  
as usual I walk to Bowdou store five miles  
a way and packed a sack home

so we had the experience of home grown  
bread, but I think it was a very bitter  
one to me, we can grow wheat on Vancouver  
Island but to soft to make Bread,  
well we had no stove or any other Kitchen  
Conveniences, a Dutch oven and all the Kitchen  
furnishing were very primitive, and you  
would always find two articles present  
a frying Pan and a tin Billy to make  
tea or coffee in,

We must give some notice of our improvements,  
our Pioneers came in 1862  
there were then no Roads, the first thing a  
Pioneer did after building his Cabin would  
be to cut a trail from any then existing  
Trail or Roads to his location while we  
called them Roads; we today would not  
use the word Roads to describe them - a  
more appropriate description of them would  
be a blazed trail through the Woods for  
you would be watching the trees ahead  
of you for Blazes on the trees about shoulder  
high, good deep Blazes to keep you  
on the way, for little or no work would

have been done other than chopping small  
trees level with the ground, and the ground  
leveled about 6 feet wide, was what  
constituted a Road, but we were always  
making some improvements thereon - in the  
first place many of the soft spots we had  
to corduroy to get over them at all; you would  
lay a long tree about 9 inches to a foot through  
on each side of the Road, then you would  
get your covering either small pole's or  
split slabs of big trees, you would spot  
or flatten your covering on your strengtheners  
so they would not roll when you crossed  
it and in addition you would <sup>put</sup> grand poles  
on each side and pegged down to keep  
the covering down and from rolling out  
of place, these when worn out or rotted  
away would be replaced by first filling  
in with large Rock and covered by a  
coat of gravel, so our Road have been  
developed by degrees from the mud Road  
to the hard finished one.

Then our <sup>Council</sup> carried on their duties of  
gradually improving our Roads according  
to the funds at their disposal and so  
well have they done their duty - that to-day  
no District have any better Roads than Lewisham  
and our Roads have cost us less

for some years after the Municipality was organized the Government continued to collect all Taxes, which they paid over to the Municipality Rates, and the feeling between them always been most friendly.

The Government used to impose a two day statute labor on each individual living in the Municipality from the year's of 1860-65- when called out by the Pathmaster of the District they had to perform two days work upon the Public Roads wherever the Pathmaster directed; and he had to furnish his own tools, then the law was changed so the individual could pay into the Government the sum of \$2<sup>00</sup>, which exempted him from the two days Statute labor. Then later it was further amended that each Council could impose a \$2<sup>00</sup> Road Tax instead of Statute labor. North Cowichan was the first to make the change, to Road Tax of \$2<sup>00</sup> instead of two days work, and found she got far better results, to many men under Statute labor just turned out under the Statute labor to have a pic Nic, no intention of trying to do a day's work or to improve the Roads = mind some did a good day's work and the Roads were improved, but the majority shirked the work = for many year's the Councilors acted as pathmaster as with out any pay = but we must not forget no one in regard to Statute labor

received any pay there for

After returning to BC from California  
I have served many years upon the  
Municipal Council I think 12 years as  
Reeve and about the same as Councillor  
have seen many changes and much  
development during that time and the  
very many points at which we held our  
meetings, but I want to pay a tribute  
to our many Councillors, I cannot call  
to mind any act or action of any member  
there of which was done for personal gain  
we often did not look at all questions  
in the same way - the different Councillor  
sent from the different wards to represent  
that Ward and the Councillors would  
make a fight for what he considered the  
Wards rights, and during all the years,  
we have been organize as a Municipality  
there as never been a breath of scandal or  
of wrong doing in connection with the  
members of the North Cowichan Council  
and this of its self stands to the credit  
of the many men who have represented  
the several Ward's for so many years  
In the above no mention has been made  
of Mutual or other kindred Societies  
my first venture was in the Sons of  
Temperance don't remember the date but  
in California on my first I think 1867-

it was a Temperance organization it  
did not live many years, it was followed  
by the Good Templars which rolled up  
quite a membership and did good  
work for many years I filled all the  
offices in the Temple also in Grand Temple  
I joined the Order of Knights of Pythias in  
California as Charter Member of Black  
Diamond Nortonville 1874 I have served  
in all its Subordinate Lodge Offices in  
the Grand Domain of California joined  
by Card Maple No 15 of Princeton I have  
passed through all the Grand Lodge  
Chains in B.C., the oldest Knight both  
in years also in service in B.C.  
I have also served <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ years as school  
Trustee of the old Somerios School on the  
corner of the Trunk and Krocoss Roads  
also on the old Maple Bay School, where  
one School District served all North of River  
The first Public School Teacher was R.M.  
Cleminson he taught in the old Maple  
Bay School at junction of Saltis Road  
with Hoad Road the second was Mr  
Monte first <sup>taught</sup> in Old Mission Building until  
the school was built she was the second  
Public School Teacher in the District the next  
Public school was the old Somerios School  
Corner of the Trunk and Krocoss Roads  
opposite the Methodist Church Taught by  
Ed Stuart Wood now of Salmon Arm  
Mrs. Monte and Stuart Wood are still alive 1937

## Pioneer Women of Cowichan District list

We will our list with women who were the most outstanding

Mrs Neil Bell of Somenos. She was born in Scotland, migrated to New Zealand previous to coming to British Columbia in 1862 sometime ago I visited the grave of her and her husband Neil Bell in the Somenos grave yard, alas to late, the stones were standing all right, but the names had all peeled off all a blank, Mrs Bell was a trained nurse and midwife before coming to B.C., and in the early days we had no resident Dr. in the District or any nearer than Victoria so Mrs Bell was a godsend to the District, but our Pioneer were a healthy sturdy lot of Men and Women I think a Dr. would have starved to death if he had to depend upon his practice for a living, so if any one got very sick we called in Mrs Bell, and then as people got more numerous, and more women came in and don't forget in the early days our Government imported bride's by the ship loads the first Bride ship was the Robt. L. D. she had to come around Cape Horn, and some of that load came to Cowichan as Bride's. So Mrs Bell's services were in more demand, but she was a most wonderful woman, full of energy and endurance she would walk from Somenos to the wharf

at Chemainus and back and do her regular day work - and she would go to Mr. & Mrs. Chisholm at Maple Bay in the same way, and don't forget our Roads were Mud Roads, some times in the year they were far nicer than Gravel to walk on than Gravel Road, but then at other times you would think you were lifting a ton every time you lifted your foot - and when at last she was worn out and had to take to her bed: she would not have a woman around in the house - her youngest Son Angus was the only one, of her five children at home, but she needed for nothing - Stake my hat of to Angus, for giving that Noble Woman every care and attention she needed she who had all her life been aiding the sick and those in need she passed away very peacefull, her work well done

Next we will write a few lines upon another equally as noble in every way Mrs Archibald Heir - A noble Pioneer Woman a fine sympathetic woman, she mothered all the batches of the visited and some from beyond, and oft times they needed mothering many just from the old home land and away from their mother apron strings and the mothers influence's were kept upon the straight road - by her advice and sympathy many a young man in after years had reason to call her blessed, when you enter

her door you felt you were home - and it was the rendezvous of all even before the Post Office was establish there; we were all indebted to her more than was ever repaid, her house was thrown open to all dissenting Ministers for their use long before any church was built - and many of our first pioneers looking for locations were fed at her table and rested their weary legs before proceeding along their way - it was toiling climbing over logs through the Bush and many a man has called down blessing upon her head - A fine noble Woman.

Next we must write a few lines about a woman Cowichan District is very much indebted to Mrs David Alexander of Oak Bank - (Senior) there was a later Mr David Alexander, a daughter in law, Cowichan District as always been farmed for it good but Mrs Alexander was its pioneer who first placed it before the public, Cowichan Butter, she was what you may call a stay at home woman, her chief pleasure was in husband work, there were three other women who presided over their butter for first place, Mrs Bell with all her work for other did not neglect her Butter making, Mr Bednall and we must not omit Elizabeth, a name we all would sever by I only knew her by the name of Elizabeth for many years - her name Miss Elizabeth Blackmore, her butter could not be excelled but she first scalded her milk and made

Devonshire Cream, and she had also  
Churn through all the year's she made  
Butter, after skimming the Devonshire Cream  
into a big Stone Crock she would make  
Butter by stirring it with her hand, and  
she made very good butter and while  
writing about Elizabeth and her butter we  
should give some history of her; she came  
to Victoria in the employ of Dr. Davis Sen  
as nurse and maid to his motherless  
children, and how well she fulfilled those  
duties, she also filled the place of Mother to them  
No mother could have fulfilled a mother  
duties to her children, then Elizabeth to  
Davis family of motherless children, and  
then we must note how she came to Victoria  
she was in the employ of Dr. Davis, and he  
had decided to make a home for his family  
in Sonoma, so he sends Alex one of his Boys  
up to Sonoma accompanied by Elizabeth  
Alex was riding a pony and Elizabeth  
was walking but add to that she was  
leading a Jersey Cow along, she and the  
Cow walked all the way and Alex took  
and that in 1862 everything was wild and  
rough, small log cabin no floors and no  
stove or any of our present day conveniences  
she got some old stove & when making Devonshire  
Cream she was a fine Noble Woman

And another of those fine women we

add the name of Mrs Manly who lately  
became Mrs James Boat, Cowichan Flatts  
a woman overflowing with friend ship  
and sympathy and a heart so full of  
generosity, you could offend her if you  
would not eat her food, and she would all  
way produce it at all hours, a woman that  
restored her friend ship upon all her house  
was open to all and she stood for all on the  
south side of the River that Joe Drinkwater  
did on the North a home for the homeless

Oh what a fine noble lot of Princesses came  
to the Cowichan District, I feel it was a great  
Blessing and privilege to have located amongst  
them to share their work their pleasures and  
honors, for we cannot escape the late neatly  
all have been called to their rest I am the only  
one left that had grown to manhood in  
1870, was the date of my arrival in District

In the words of Percyson

Then my Brothers men the Workers  
Ever keeping something new  
That which they have done but earnest  
Of the things that they shall do

I could write volume's of that noble band  
of Princess women of the Cowichan Valley  
but I will give a list of them as remember  
them omitting the names of those of whom  
I have given a brief sketch of. And some  
names may have slipped my memory

List of Pioneer Women of the Cowichan District

Mrs. Thos Skinner - Family  
Mrs Bednar - Maple Bay  
Mrs John Horley - Maple Bay  
Mrs John Flett - Maple Bay  
Mrs John Hale - Maple Bay  
Mrs William Edgson - Maple Bay  
Mrs Grobark - Somesos  
Mrs Cjaumont - Maple Bay  
Mrs Reece - The Rectory  
Mrs Geo Lilly - Crofton  
Mrs Pat Kressman - Cowichan Bay  
Mrs Shair - Cowichan "  
Mrs Mariner - Cowichan "  
Mrs James Boat - Cowichan "  
Mrs John Nelson - Cowichan "  
Mrs Robert White - Cowichan "  
Mrs Mat Bothwell - Cowichan "  
Mrs Geo Askew - Chemainus  
Mrs Robert McLay - Hakasida  
Mrs Alexander Blyth - "  
Mrs Wm Chipdon - Maple Bay  
Mrs James Least - "  
Mrs Randall - "  
Mrs Wm Drinkwater - Somesos  
Mrs Ambrose Skinner - "  
Mrs Tait - "  
Mrs John & Evans - "  
Mrs Richardson - Cowichan  
Mrs Thos Williams - "  
Mrs Harris - John Bullion - "

Mrs Holling	Cobble Hill
Mrs Chapman	"
Mrs Copeley	"
Mrs Bowden	"
Mrs Bob Mearns	Kokasila
Mrs Walter Ford	"
Mrs Todd	Cowichan
Mrs Ruthledge	"
Mrs Murphy	Slimora
Mrs Waters	"
Mrs Mc Kennedy	"
Mrs Rows	"
Mrs Mallet	"
Mrs Bowden	"
Mrs Merryman	"
Mrs Harry Smith	Cobble Hill
Mrs La Fortune	Hill Bay
Mrs W.R. Robertson	Cowichan
Mrs Rogers	Rogers Lake
Mrs E.L. Corfield	Cowichan
Mrs Fred Thalland Donsell	"
Mrs De Robottom	Guanichan
Mrs Frazer	Duncans
Mrs Symonds	Maple Bay
Mrs Chate	Zunamickan
Mrs. H. Foy	Oshemaine
Mrs Neil Campbell	Westholme
Mrs Hall	"
Mrs Frank Lloyd	"
Mrs James Habgood	"
Mrs Porter Et	Chemainus

Mrs Fuller	Fuller Lake
Mrs James Evans	Duncans
Mrs Monk	Decimichan
Mrs John McKenzie	McKenzie Road
Mrs John Blair	"
Mrs James Auchanachie	Saltam
Mrs David Holmes	Duncans
Mrs W C Duncan	"
Mrs David Ford	Ilenora
Mrs James Charley	Somenos
Mrs Sam Gray	Chemainus
The Currie family	Saltam, Mrs Currie
Mrs Somerville, Mr holding & Miss Mary	and Cecile
Mrs H May	Somenos
Mrs Willbourn	Quamichan Lake
Mrs Ashdown Green	Somenos Lake
Mrs Musgrave	" "
Mrs Kingston	" "
Mrs John Watson	Somenos
Mrs Martin	"
Mrs Herbert Hall	Westholme
Mrs Barry	Cobble Hill
Mrs Michel Smith	Crofton
Mrs John Michell	Somenos
Mrs J Shoptland	Maple Bay
Mrs Sumner	Gibson Rd
Mrs Young	Cowichan Table
Mrs Fiumento	Cowichan (Rd)
Mrs A Dunmore	Maple Bay
Mrs Ordano	Cowichan

Mrs Pinbury Cowichan Flatts  
Mrs H P Jaynes Quamichan  
Mrs Fraser = first white woman to  
Reside Cowichan Lake  
Mrs Thomas Westholme  
Mrs Margaret Allard Quamichan Lake  
Mrs Fletcher (Blacksmith) Hards Road

Early School of Cowichan District

Copy of letter from the Rev Alex S C Garrett  
appointing Wm H Lomas first School Teacher  
Victoria March 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Gentlemen

I have the honor to inform you, that I submitted your Petition on the School question to the Hon the Colonial Secretary who is also Senior Member for the City. He desires me to acquaint you, that the House of Assembly have voted the required sum. In pursuance of his instructions I looked about for a suitable Teacher. Mr H Lomas long and favorably known to you all applied for the appointment; I examined him in those of knowledge required for the situation, and have laid his written answers before the Colonial Secretary who has signified his approval. Mr Lomas will therefore will open School without delay.

I have obtained from the Bishop's Library a supply of books, which will be sold to the children considerably under Cost price in England.

I rely upon your zeal and gratitude as sufficient to guarantee you most earnest cooperation and assistance in carrying out this most important measure to wit the speedy opening of the School

I remain Gentlemen

To Yours very faithfully your  
Rev Alex S C Garrett  
Bednall Hill

The first school in Cowichan was held in the

Old Log Building on the West side of  
Somers Lake of the present Horncross Road  
I have never been able to discover if it was  
built for a School or a Church it was used  
for both purposes in 1870 and was used  
before St Peters. Rev Alex SC Garnett used to  
ride up over the old Sooke trail in 1864 when  
I first knew him in 1864, he also supplied  
St Luke Cedar Hill at that date

Copy of Memo of Agreement-

We the Local Board of North Cowichan School District  
hereby Contract with and employ Wm H Lomas  
to teach from the date hereof at the Rate of \$40<sup>00</sup>  
per month, from such money's as may come to  
our hands by virtue of the Common School  
Ordinance 1869, and the Common School  
Amendment 1870, and we bind ourselves to  
employ all the powers with which we are  
legally invested by said ordinance to collect  
and pay to the said teacher during the continuance  
of this agreement, the sum for which we hereby  
become bound, and the said Wm H Lomas  
binds himself, to teach and conduct the said  
Common School, according to the rules and  
regulations, prescribed by competent authority  
there to, this agreement shall continue in force  
for one year from date hereof, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day  
of September 1870.

Wm S Reese Chairman      Wm H Lomas Teacher  
Ashdown H Green }      H F Crail  
A W Roque      witness

Copy

At a public meeting held 1869, but  
lawfull consumed after due notice  
A Resolution was unanimously adopted, voting  
that the School Teacher Salary should not be  
less than \$600 " per annum \$600"  
I hereby declare that the agreement between the  
Local Board on the one part and Mr Lomas  
the Teacher on the other part, as expressed on the  
other side, was entered into on the distinct  
understanding, that the additional sum of  
(\$120<sup>00</sup>) one hundred and Twenty Dollars, necessary  
to carry out the Resolution of the above mentioned  
Meeting, should be paid out of the sum collected  
by the local Rate of Two Dollar (\$2<sup>00</sup>) per head  
which was also voted. It was on this under  
standing, Mr Lomas accepted the post of  
School Teacher -

(Wm S Pease  
Signed - (A W Rogers

School fee's 1870 = 1871

Mr Ken = 20 months @ 25 <sup>00</sup>	5 copy Book 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 <sup>00</sup>	75 <sup>00</sup>
Mr Bell 28	7 copy "	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr Alexander 22 <sup>00</sup>	6 copy "	75 <sup>00</sup>	75 <sup>00</sup>
Mr Rogers 21	4 copy "	50 <sup>00</sup>	50 <sup>00</sup>
Mr Humphrey 15	5 copy "	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr Pease 4	3 copy "	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr Shaw 20	6 copy "	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr Barron 2	2 copy "	25 <sup>00</sup>	25 <sup>00</sup>
	Total	837 <sup>75</sup>	

It would appear from letters from Mr Lomas and W.C. Ward that Mr Lomas salary was paid by the church of England Fund up to 1870, and while Mr Lomas was the first teacher who taught School in the District he was not a public School Teacher - the first Public School Teacher was R.M. Clemison who taught in the first Public School built in Cowichan District the old Maple Bay School on what is now known as Herd's Road at the junction of Lathe's Road, Mr Lomas a few years later taught two Public Schools on the South side of the Cowichan River, the Old Beach School Cowichan and the Koksilah at Kelvin Creek - he taught on alternate days one school would get three (3) days one week and two days the next week.

Copy of letter from W.C. Ward to Mr Lomas  
Victoria April 9<sup>th</sup> 1870.

Mr Wm. W. Lomas  
Cowichan,

Dear Sir

Enclosed find Cheque for quarters  
stipend to \$15.00 as follows \$3. P.S. & 97 00  
P.C.S. \$12 13 = \$109 13 this was the utmost  
that the D.C.S. could make up for the last year,  
the S.P.S. having further reduced the for the  
present year; and subscription to the D.C.S.  
having also fallen short of last year's receipts  
am sorry this should be so, but every effort  
as been made here without avail your truly  
W.C. Ward

Rev Lomas was teaching for the Church of England in the Old Union Building Quamichan in 1870 when I arrived here in 1870. It was the only lumber built in the District, shortly after the Old Maple Bay school was built and the first Public School opened. But the credit should go to the Church of England in Pioneering schools in Cowichan District, the Provincial Assembly passed the first Public School Act in 1864 but no steps had been taken to establish a Public school until the Maple Bay School if memory serves me right it was opened in 1872. Clemison was followed in the Maple Bay school by Miss Clyde who later became Mrs Ambrose Skinner.

The third Public School was the old Sommers School at junction of the trunk and Horseshoe Roads, opened Ed Stewart Wood, which school should receive credit for erecting the first school Flag Pole today every school has a flag floating, and she also Pioneered the first Christmas Tree I really think in the province, 1886 - Miss Blair was then teacher, then our children would walk many far miles each way a long Roads in winter were knee deep in mud, now our Busses pick them up we may say at their door's and delivers them back after, in those day we had often the old Sommers School opened first Monday April 1<sup>1885</sup>

Sleds traveling three miles per hour  
over mud Roads; and Mud Roads  
with sled was more suitable than  
McAdam or hard finished Roads

Today many Rural School have disappeared  
their place's filled by a consolidated School  
with a teacher to each grade, truly the  
world moves on, so Cowichan as kept in  
step with modern improved conditions  
our schools compare favorable with those  
of our cities perhaps we could lay claim  
to B.C. school system one of the best in the  
World

During the first years after the Municipality  
the Provincial Government continued to assess  
and collect our taxes, and over the Municipality  
so much to expend upon our Roads and Bridges  
and we got far more than they collected during  
the first years, in the first year, we asked for  
\$ 20 82<sup>00</sup> we finish that year with a Balance  
\$ 285.<sup>13</sup>, to give an idea of the then conditions  
of Roads the following are specifications for work

Widen section of Chemainus Road

Logs to be cut 12 feet long, 3 inches and over to  
be cut out 10 feet wide, Grade to be stamped and  
graded 6 feet wide let to Joe Richards \$ 400<sup>00</sup>  
consider the change from 1874 - Roads 6 ft.  
wide to what they are at present and with  
increased Auto Traffic and speed their width  
will have to be increased to meet changing  
conditions

The first meeting of the Municipal Council  
of North Cowichan was held July 15<sup>th</sup> 1873  
The following Gentlemen composed the first  
Council

The Warden later changed to Reeve

Thomas Skinner

Councillors, Mr. Wm Brinkwater

Mr. Fay (Senior) Edward Marriner, Wm. G.

Lomas, Horace S. Davis; and John Flett, Senior

At the second meeting, July 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. W.C.  
Duncan was appointed to go over the Road and  
make an estimate of the amount of money  
required = Duncan's report \$2400<sup>00</sup> to the  
Council Cut of the \$400<sup>00</sup> and sent in to the  
Government an Estimate of \$2000<sup>00</sup>; the

Warden was in those days elected by the Council  
you must bear in mind in 1873 we did not  
have many Roads or Trails. On March 25<sup>th</sup> 1874

the Richard trail was ordered opened, and

we find after Mr. Duncan had made his  
report on the Roads he was appointed Road

Superintendent August 13<sup>th</sup> 1873. At the rate of

\$3<sup>00</sup> per day when on duty; previous to the  
formation of the Municipality all Road work

by the Government had been by day labor until

that was all changed, for we find on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

1874, the Council sold by Public Auction, Wagon

Tools, Tents, and Cooking outfit, and all Road

work for the future was to be done by contract

The Road Superintendent would draw up

specification for the Work to be done, and

Richard Trail Cost - \$195<sup>00</sup> to build

invite tenders to be sent in to the Council by a certain date, then specification was posted in many places in the Municipality and also in prints on the South of the River and competition in tendering was very keen and they certainly got value for their money we find July 29<sup>th</sup> 1874 a petition was presented to them to build a wharf at Maple Bay, Mr Beaumont owned a wharf about where the Maple Inn now stand a poor and unsafe one and he charged wharfage on everything that passed over it and the settlers thought that after wharf was as necessary as a few wharfs and also a safe wharf the estimate to build a wharf was \$1000<sup>00</sup> it was built by tender by Joseph Richards and Hugh Drummond \$740<sup>00</sup> and they had previously given up their rights to the wharf lots. We had not many roads in those days and it was a busy time for the Councillors to locate new roads and keep in repair the existing ones laying out contracts and passing them when done, the appointment of Mr Duncan as Road Superintendent relieved them of a great deal of work but they generally went with him when he laid out work, an item of interest would be the building of the Merryses Road from the Cowichan Lake to the Merryses location on the River side nearly three miles long the rule of the Council was then and I

think it still is not to expend any Municipal  
Money earlier than were two or more Residences  
there on, well Mr. Macrae was the Pioneer  
on that Road and his location was at  
the extreme end, well soon after he had  
built the Road many settlers located  
there on, and Mr. Macrae was entitled  
to pay for work done on Road Not only  
the length of Road there was a very long Bridge  
over the big Creek, far longer than now  
for there been a lot filled in and the Council  
were so very generous they gave him \$50<sup>00</sup>  
for his work took it over and made a Public  
Road of it; April 8<sup>th</sup> 1874 Mr. Archie Dodds  
wrote the Council for a Road he was located  
on Cowichan Flatts, there were no Bridges  
or Roads across the flats in those days  
May 13<sup>th</sup> 1874 Clerk instructed to call for  
tenders to construct a Road from  
the Wesleyan Church on Bank Road to a  
connection with the Somersos Wharf Bay  
Road, Mr. James Reid tender was for  
\$398<sup>00</sup> including Bridge across Evans  
Creek, there was a John Evans previous to me =  
In 1874 the Provincial Government took  
over the Bank Road

We should state when the wharf was  
first built fees were charged much the  
same as usual fee's for wharfage with this  
exception that, Boxes of butter eggs and  
Produce went free, all fees were abolished

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1876

June 19<sup>th</sup> 1856 In May, John Wilson and  
Others petition the Council to construct the  
May Road

X A vote was taken in regard to building of  
Wharf at Maple Bay result-for 127 - against 27  
Estimate sent to Government for Roads was  
for \$6000<sup>00</sup> including \$1000<sup>00</sup> for wharf  
July 24<sup>th</sup> 1876, was change following the survey  
Instead of going straight over the Hill it was  
a very narrow grade when first built just  
room for a wagon to travel if two met one  
would have to stay at one end until the  
other got through

March 25<sup>th</sup> 1876 H. H. Senior was appointed  
Clock and Assessor, Harry Morley had been the  
first Clerk January 17<sup>th</sup> 1887 Mr. Glens  
introduced a By law to indemnify the  
Council for the rate of \$2<sup>00</sup> per day  
but confined their greeting to 12 during  
the year, the by law was submitted to a  
vote by the rate payers vote in favor of by law  
a request was made to C.C. of L & G Works, to  
declare Road from the Hill Methodist Church  
to connect with Somers Maple Bay Road  
this Road is known as the Horcross Road

Some actions of Council could not be according  
to law, at a special meeting Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1877 a resolution  
was passed asking the Provincial Government  
legalize all acts done by the Council since  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 1855 November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1877 a by law  
was passed of 50<sup>00</sup> Votis qualified Tax - the

proceed of said Tax to pay a bounty  
of 50¢ a dozen heads of Blue Jays, the Blue  
jay at that time was very troublesome  
destroying crops today they are pretty nearly  
extinct, Council suspended payment of clearing  
Roads except by order of Council, they had  
been receiving many bills for clearing without  
any authorization, which during the year  
would amount to quite a sum

In 1878 the first Telegraph line was  
built and the Council had considerable  
trouble with the Contractors and holes  
left in Road, the Council certainly kept  
down the expense they authorized the building  
of a pile driver, but not to exceed \$30 =  
and the House of Assembly was petitioned not  
to make any change in the number of Council  
in North Cowichan or to incorporate it into  
a County Council

In 1880 election there were two running  
for the Office of Reeve, Mr G Fly Lomas and  
Mr Beaumont; result Beaumont 2  
Lomas 23, A petition to the Council from the  
Anti Chinese Ass against Chinese Council  
nearly no Chinese in the Municipality

Mr G Fly Lomas owner Chemainus Law firm  
leaving Mr Atkew with a large family to  
support, The Council donated all the taxes for  
1880, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Clerks salary cut from \$120 =  
per year to \$75 = Sept 4<sup>th</sup> no Council to let  
any work upon our Roads without consulting the  
Council

It may be of interest to state in regards to  
Statute Labor a report.

Commissioner 22 worked & did not

Somerset 10 worked & did not & paid

Quamichan all had worked except 1

The Council often exceeded their powers take  
for instance Fred Inwood living outside  
of the Municipal Boundary summoned  
for non payment of Statute Labor. And  
he paid it, and he had sat as Councillor  
but the Council spent money far over the  
boundary. I call to mind they expended  
Money up Currie Creek bridge = see next page  
Council had considerable trouble with  
owners of steam boats playing up the

Coast; Mr Spratt and others swing their  
boats upon the wharf coming in and leaving

Sutton Trail was before the Council and a  
<sup>on another</sup> Report of Committee that it could not go on  
page lower toward Water on account of Rock Bluff.

Some business houses had been opened on  
Sunday. Mr Duncan gave Notice of by law  
with object of shutting all up.

An amendment to Municipal act - North Cowichan  
may still have 3 Councillors

W.P. Jaynes in 1883 Councillor Quamichan  
Held Mr Beaumont objected to him taking  
his seat not having properly qualifications  
He did not take his seat; R.M. Miller elected

The Council were considering replacing  
of our wooden Culverts by use of stone

a Committee appointed to look for suitable  
stone, in the days of wooden Culverts every  
Meeting took up a certain amount of time  
in ordering repair or rebuilding Culverts  
And I mind we once had a damage  
suit and had to pay for a horse

The Council of the early 1880 had very  
considerable trouble in connection with  
the famous long bridge Mr Hugh Bell  
one of the best Road men the District ever  
had and he conducted some of our best  
Road improvements, he had a contract  
to build the Long Bridge he spent very  
considerable of both time and money and  
appeared before the Council stating he could  
not build it his crib fell toppled over side  
way he got nothing for his work done

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1884, the Council asked the  
Provincial Government to construct a  
Road to Cowickas Lake

The Clerk was instructed to write the Superintendent  
of Provincial Telegraph that the poles and  
wires were in a dangerous state and  
requested he have them placed in repair  
Instruction issued to pathmaster Bell and  
Pavie to have bridge across Curies Creek  
repaired Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1885 -

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1885 - Statute Labor by law repealed  
and Road Tax of 8 2<sup>½</sup> passed

Kids trespassing on Roads      (upon his Trail  
Litter allowed to spend Rd Tax collected)

### The Evening Bells

"Those evening bells,- those evening bells  
How many a tale their music tell  
Of youth, and home, and native clime  
When, I last heard their smoothing chime

"Those pleasant hours have passed away  
And, many a heart, that then was gay,  
Within the tomb, now darkly dwells  
And hears no more those evening bells

"And so 'twill be when I am gone  
That tuneful peal will still ring on  
When other bards shall walk those bells  
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells

On visiting a scene of childhood <sup>seen</sup>  
Long years had elapsed since I gayed on the  
Which my fancy still robed in its freshness of green  
The spot where, a school boy all thoughtless I stray'd  
By the side of the stream, in the gloom of the shade

I thought of the friends, who had roan'd with me there  
When the sky was so blue, and the flowers were so fair,  
All scatter'd - all sunder'd by mountain and wave  
And some in the silent embrace of the grave

I thought of the green banks, that circled around  
With wild flowers and sweet briar & eglantine crown'd

I thought of the river, all quiet and bright  
As the face of the sky on a blue summer night

And I thought of the trees under which we had  
strays  
of the broad leafy boughs with their coolness of shade  
and I hoped though disfigured, some token to find  
of the names, and the carvings impress'd on the wind

All eager I hasten'd the scene to behold  
Render'd sacred and dear by the feelings of old  
And I darr'd that, unalter'd my eye should explore  
This refuge, thus haunt'd this Elysium of you

It was a dream not a token or trace could I view  
of the names that I loved, of the trees that I knew  
Like the shadows of night - at the dawning of day  
Like a tale that is told, they had vanished away

And methought the lone river, that murmur'd along  
Was more dull in its motion, more sad in its song  
Since the birds, that had nestled and warbled above  
Had fled from its Banks, at the fall of the grove

### The Burial of Sir John Moore

Not a drum, was heard not a funeral note  
As his corse to the rampart we hurried  
Not a soldier discharge his farewell shot  
O'er the grave where our hero was buried

### My Mother's Voice

Though far away I wander  
From the scenes of early youth

I shall ne'er forget its pleasures  
Hours of innocence and mirth

Off my spirit bears the voice  
of the loved of long ago

Father, Mother, playmate-Brother

Love to love thee never do

Yet of all the welcome voices

That my memory longed to hear

Was the sweet voice of my Mother

With its tones so soft and mild

Since it is belief, that mad Maxwell now is no more  
Had fled from its Banks, at the fall of the grave

### The Burial of Sir John Moore

Not a drum was heard not a funeral note  
As his corse to the rampart we hurried  
Not a soldier discharge his fare well shot  
O'er the grave where our hero was buried

### My Mothers Voice

Though far away I wander  
From the scenes of early youth  
I shall never forget its pleasures  
Hours of innocence and truth  
Oft my spirit yearns the voice  
of the loved of long ago  
Father, Mother, playmate Brother  
Leave to love them never know  
Yet of all the welcome voices  
That my memory longed to hear  
Twas the sweet voice of my mother  
With its tones so soft and mild  
Often love so gently chiding  
With her wayward thoughtless child  
Yes I hear that voice as ever  
Through long years have passed and gone  
As my mind oft wanders backward  
As I journey on alone

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